



Kent Worcester

*National Honorary Political Science Fraternity
Founded at the University of Texas, 1924
Stanford Chapter Established, 1926*



Pi Sigma Alpha

A Centennial History

Pi Sigma Alpha is an honor political science fraternity. Its aim is to "stimulate productive scholarship and interest in the subject of government". Its members for the year include Barbara [unclear] as president and Peggy Sussman as treasurer. Their annual installation dinner was highly attended by a panel of professional speakers on the relation of the social fields to the present emergence





Pi Sigma Alpha

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Cover photos: *Top*—The Stanford Quad, 1942. Volume 49. Stanford University. Libraries. Department of Special Collections and University Archives. *Bottom*—Mu chapter, Columbia University, 2019. From Pi Sigma Alpha archives.

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Introduction

In 2020 the political science honor society, Pi Sigma Alpha, celebrated its centennial anniversary. Founded at the University of Texas at Austin in 1920, Pi Sigma Alpha is one of the country's oldest and largest academic honor societies. Over 315,000 women and men have been inducted into the society since its inception. Bill Clinton, Susan Collins, Newt Gingrich, Ilhan Omar, and Harry Reid were inducted as undergraduates, as were justices Anthony Kennedy and William Rehnquist. Prominent political scientists who became members as undergraduate or graduate students include Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, Ralph Bunche, Nancy Burns, Robert Dahl, Heinz Eulau, V.O. Key, Jr., Gary King, Theodore Lowi, Paula McClain, Norman Ornstein, and Jewel Prestage, the first African American woman to receive a doctorate in political science.¹ In the present century approximately 8,000 students are inducted per annum.

Pi Sigma Alpha promotes “excellence in academic achievement by college and university students.”² Membership is open to third and fourth-year undergraduates who have excelled in their studies as well as graduate students and faculty in political science and related fields such as public policy. On rare occasions, campus chapters and the national office bestow honorary memberships on individuals who have made special contributions to the profession and/or the public good.

In 2021-22 the society maintained nearly 850 chapters, hosted its ninth annual student research conference, and continued to sponsor *The Pi Sigma Alpha*



Pi Sigma Alpha National Student Research Conference. 2019. From Pi Sigma Alpha Archives.



2020 Pi Sigma Alpha National Student Research Conference. Washington, DC. Pi Sigma Alpha archives.

Undergraduate Journal of Political Science. It dispersed \$60,000 in activity grants to 65 chapters, and funded 12 best chapter grants, 5 internship scholarships, 5 graduate scholarships, and several awards for Best Undergraduate Honors Thesis and Best Undergraduate Class Paper. The awards, grants, scholarships, and conference are administered by the national office, while the undergraduate journal is edited by a team of Pi Sigma Alpha members under the direction of a faculty advisor. In addition, individual campus chapters sponsor activities like guest lectures, film screenings, and field trips. The annual induction ceremonies that are held across the country bring in new recruits and reunite old ones. These ceremonies have been part of the institutional culture since the society's inception. For most members, campus events remain the most tangible aspect of the Pi Sigma Alpha experience.

This centennial history provides an overview of the development of the society from its founding to the present day. It is aimed at students, parents, faculty, and anyone with an interest in Pi Sigma Alpha, as well as political science, of which the society is an integral part. If your college or university does not have a chapter, you are invited to start one. For more information, visit www.pisigmaalpha.org.

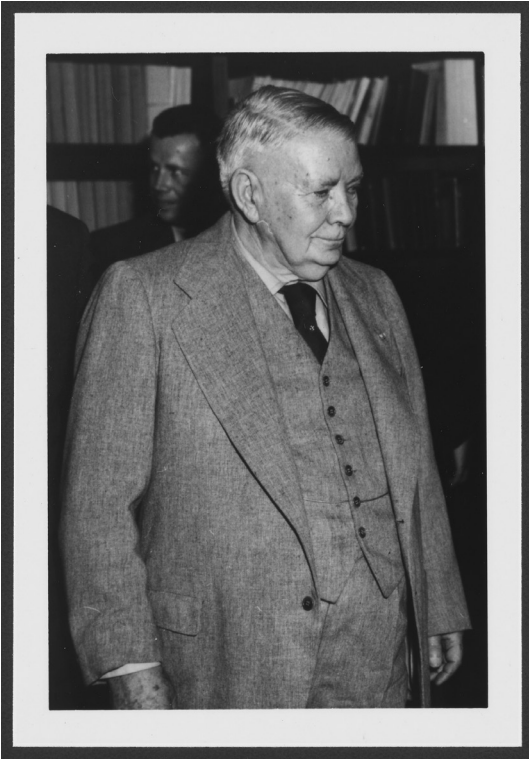
Early Years: Pi Sigma Alpha, 1920-1940

As the historian Mark C. Smith has noted, “the 1920s and 1930s are key decades for the history of the social sciences in the United States.”³ While the concept of the research university was formulated in the nineteenth century, it was in the period before and especially after World War I that the scholarly infrastructure of the modern social sciences was constructed. The American Political Science Association (APSA), for example, was founded in 1903, and the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) was set up in 1923. The emergence of public policy research centers, better known as think tanks, also dates to this period: The National Bureau of Economic Research was launched in 1920, and the Council on Foreign Relations was established in 1921. Federal and private investment in the social sciences was negligible in the nineteenth century but began to take off in the interwar period before reaching unparalleled heights after World War II.

Pi Sigma Alpha is part of this larger story. Its genesis and development connect to the segmentation and professionalization of postsecondary education over the course of the twentieth century. In the coauthored book *Open the Social Sciences* (1996), Immanuel Wallerstein (with others) refers to this process as “institutionalizing the disciplines.”⁴ An expanding system of higher education provides the crucial backdrop for the emergence of academic honor societies, which not only celebrate undergraduate achievement but nurture the talent pool that doctoral programs draw on. “It was thought,” acknowledged C. Perry Patterson in the society’s *Newsletter* in 1949, “that students who could be induced to achieve distinction in political science in their undergraduate work would be encouraged to do graduate work in this field.”⁵ In this way, Pi Sigma Alpha not only promotes a common sense of purpose within and across campus chapters but contributes to the broader development of the profession.

The idea of forming Pi Sigma Alpha was first broached at a faculty meeting at the University of Texas in the fall of 1919. According to a 1949 letter from C. Perry Patterson to Elwyn Mauck,

Herman G. James suggested the idea and, after rather extensive discussion, the staff decided that I was the man to promote the organization. You possibly have experienced the fact that the big boys in a department are very fertile in making suggestions for the underlings to execute. They called me their hot-air windjammer and, as I was young and full of vinegar, they felt I was the boy to do the work. Of course, I had no choice as I was anxious to make good with the powers that be. The result was that I took to the road and visited the universities of Oklahoma, Kansas, S.M.U. [Southern Methodist University], and Washington University, St. Louis.⁶



Caleb Perry Patterson. Prints and Photographs Collection, camh-dob-013504. The Dolph Briscoe Center for American History. The University of Texas at Austin.

A colleague recalled that Patterson “was constantly promoting the organization, trying to get new chapters established. That went slowly at first but snowballed as time passed.”⁷ An undated memo confirms that the “first step toward the establishment of the Pi Sigma Alpha Fraternity was taken in December 1919, at one of the staff meetings of the instructors of the Department of Government.” The following spring, “Charles G. Haines, Chairman of the Department of Government, addressed letters to the chairs of departments of government in the leading universities of the country relative to the organization.”⁸

According to a notice in the 1921 UT-Austin *Yearbook*, Pi Sigma Alpha’s inaugural chapter had 13 students and 5 faculty advisors, three of whom served as Pi Sigma Alpha presidents - C. Perry Patterson (1920-32), Charles G. Haines (1934-36), and Herman G. James (1938-40). Student member Fletcher Warren went on to become the U.S. ambassador to Nicaragua, Paraguay, Turkey, and Venezuela, while his classmate Thomas C. Clark was the U.S. Attorney General from 1945-49 and sat on the Supreme Court from 1949-67. Benjamin F. Wright taught government at Harvard before becoming president of Smith College, and Oscar R. Strackbein worked as a labor organizer and a trade commissioner with the Department of Commerce. The chapter included faculty advisor Sarah Scott Edwards, who worked for the University in an administrative capacity, and Mary Elizabeth McBride, who taught in the public schools of Port Arthur, Texas for a few years after graduation, before leaving the workforce to raise a family and participate in voluntary organizations.⁹

As it happens, Pi Sigma Alpha was not the country’s first political science honor society. Alpha Pi Zeta, founded in 1918, established beachheads at Stanford University, the University of California at Berkeley, and the University of Washington, but voted to amalgamate with its larger rival in 1923. Pi Sigma

Alpha chapters were subsequently formed at Stanford in 1925, UC Berkeley in 1926, and at the University of Washington in 1928. Alpha Pi Zeta lasted for less than a decade and left only a faint imprint on the historical record.¹⁰

Prior to the 1960s, academic honor societies were often referred to as “fraternities.” Pi Sigma Alpha’s earliest constitution described the organization as the “Honorary Fraternity in Political Science,” and stipulated that “the objects of this Fraternity” are to “further the welfare of its individual members, to encourage the scientific and practical study of problems of government, to foster reforms in our governmental machinery, and to aid in the education of the electorate in problems of government.”¹¹ “Some professors of political science have objected to calling PSA a ‘fraternity,’” acknowledged C. Perry Patterson in 1949. “The point is that there is a need for a greater degree of fraternity among scholars, and if PSA should contribute to this end in political science, it would not interfere with its scientific character.”¹² In 1960, Pi Sigma Alpha’s Executive Council (EC) voted to replace “fraternity” with “society” in the constitution. “The change is designed to eliminate social fraternity associations in nomenclature and functions of honor societies,” President Don L. Bowen (1960-64) explained.¹³

Progress in the interwar period was incremental by design. Following the establishment of the Alpha chapter at Texas, chapters sprang up at the University of Kansas and the University of Oklahoma in 1922, and at the University of Kentucky and the University of California, Los Angeles the following year. Kentucky’s founding advisor, Esther Cole, was the society’s first female faculty advisor. Other early chapters include Southern Methodist University (1925), Washington University in St. Louis (1926), the University of Southern California (1927), Ohio State University (1929), and the three Alpha Pi Zeta redoubts. By the end of the 1930s, the society had opened a total of 31 chapters and inducted 2401 members.

NEW HONOR SOCIETY ORGANIZED AT VARSITY

Students of government at the University of Texas have established an honor society, Pi Sigma Alpha, which they hope will soon become national in scope.

The new organization is intended to be strictly honorary, and its member-

ship confined to advanced students of government and political science who have made unusually high grades, and who intend to pursue that line of work through college.

The Texas chapter has communicated with several other groups in large universities of the country and expects that affiliated chapters will soon be established in other institutions.

Members of Pi Sigma Alpha are: J. R. Anthony, R. C. Ledbetter, B. F. Wright Jr., Austin; W. B. Ball, Farmersville; Clyde Barnes, Chester; R. H. Caldwell, Sulphur Springs; Tom C. Clark, Dallas, and R. D. Jackson, Waco.

The cost of joining may have discouraged some potential recruits during the hard times of the 1930s. As the APSA president (1952-53) and SSRC president (1948-68) Pendleton Herring remembered, “the depression even reached Harvard University. There was a certain amount of attrition, and there was talk of a salary cut.”¹⁴ A student on a tight budget might well have balked at paying dues, let alone springing for a Pi Sigma Alpha key, which cost \$4.40 in 1933.¹⁵ On the other hand, departments and faculty members sometimes subsidized student membership fees, and successive secretary-treasurers were admirably patient when it came to delinquent payments.¹⁶

When the society was first established, each chapter was expected to send an annual check to the secretary-treasurer. Fees were based on the number of members per chapter. By 1930 the formula varied from \$2 per year for a chapter with up to five members to \$20 for a 50-plus chapter. In 1933 annual dues were raised to 50 cents per member regardless of chapter size. This was bumped up to one dollar in 1936 and two dollars a decade later. In the 1950s the organization adopted a policy of charging a one-time fee. From 1955 to 1977 the cost of joining was \$5. This was doubled to \$10 in 1977, raised to \$15 in 1983, and raised again to \$25 in 1995. The society presently charges an initiation fee of \$35. This is on the low end of the dues assessed by academic honor societies.

Membership had its privileges, of course, aside from sociality and resume-building. From 1931 on members received a subscription to the society’s *Newsletter* via their chapter. The first editor was Jean Painter at Ohio State, and the first issue promised that the newsletter would “bring the local chapters into closer communication with each other so that they may benefit by an exchange of ideas and experiences.”¹⁷ For many years the *Newsletter* appeared two to three times a year; in the early twenty-first century it migrated to the web. The society is in the process of posting the entire run of the *Newsletter* on the website.

The society’s inaugural research conference was held at the University of Oklahoma in 1922. A second, larger gathering was convened at the Grand Statler Hotel in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1930. Papers were presented at both conferences, but the emphasis was on informal networking and fraternization. Pi Sigma Alpha members more often gathered at campus initiation ceremonies. The earliest recorded Ritual of Initiation traces back to the early 1920s. It involved a ceremony in which initiates were placed “in the center of the Pi Sigma Alpha key: the points of the key are named, respectively, Power, Liberty, Equality, Fraternalism, Justice.” The candidate stood before the chapter’s president, “repeating after him the following oath: ‘I hereby pledge myself to hold sacred the secrets of the Pi Sigma Alpha Fraternity and to reveal them to no one not entitled to their knowledge.’” The president then read from a prepared statement:

Experience has shown that the training and ideals, the perseverance and sacrifice, which have brought down to us the fundamental concepts we now hold sacred, have been largely the product of the zeal and patriotism of individuals and small groups. Realizing the importance of the individual to the advancement of the cause of good government, a group of men in past years sponsored Pi Sigma Alpha, an organization to cherish the ideals

THE PI SIGMA ALPHA NEWSLETTER

Jean Painter, National Editor
100 University Hall, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

VOL. I

February 13, 1931

NO. I

PURPOSE AND CHARACTER OF THE NEWSLETTER

This is the first issue of what is expected to become a regular newsletter to the local chapters of Pi Sigma Alpha. The purpose of such a letter is to bring the local chapters into closer communication with each other so that they may benefit by an exchange of ideas and experiences. It is hoped that the organization as a whole may be strengthened by such contact. Subsequent issues of the newsletter will contain certain local chapter news for which we must depend upon correspondents in the local chapters. Each chapter will receive communications from the National Secretary in the near future indicating the general character of the information which will be most valuable.

NEWLY ELECTED NATIONAL OFFICERS

The first national convention of Pi Sigma Alpha was held at the Hotel Statler in Cleveland, Ohio, December 30, 1930. At this convention Professor C. Perry Patterson, of the University of Texas was reelected National President. Mr. Francis G. Wilson, of the University of Washington, and Professor Charles W. Pipkin, of Louisiana State University, who is to be at Columbia next year, were elected first and second Vice-Presidents, respectively. Dr. Harvey Walker, of Ohio State University, was elected National Secretary-Treasurer, and Miss Jean Painter, also of Ohio State University, was elected National Editor.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

In accordance with provisions of the constitution, the National President was empowered to appoint three members, who, together with the National Officers, should constitute the Executive Committee. The three members appointed were: Mr. Paul K. Walp of the University of Kentucky, Mr. Campbell B. Beard of Brown University, and Mr. Harwood Childs of Bucknell University.

It was then decided that the Executive Committee should be directed to suggest amendments to the fraternity constitution, submitting them to all of the chapters for ratification. After some discussion of the desirability of using funds in the national treasury to establish a scholarship fund, it was decided to submit this matter to the Executive Committee also and allow the members to formulate a plan for such a use of the funds for the ratifica-

of a power enlightened by liberty, equality, fraternity, and justice. That organization has weighed you and found in you one worthy of its aspirations, one capable of furthering the high purposes to which it has dedicated itself.¹⁸

The society took pride in being about more than “holding an initiation ceremony once or twice a year and forgetting the whole matter in the meantime.”¹⁹ Several chapters in this early period sponsored lecture series, with the Ohio State, Louisiana State, and Berkeley chapters hosting presentations on such topics as “The Post Office and Its Work,” “The Contribution of Louisiana to Latin America,” “The League of Nations,” “Present-day Russia,” and “Political Science and the Physical Sciences.”²⁰ The UT chapter announced “an essay contest with three prizes of \$25, \$15, and \$10 given for the three best papers” on “The American President in National Emergencies,”²¹ and the Texas and Oklahoma chapters hosted “smokers,” a “purely informal” gathering “of the student and faculty members at some convenient place where a general round-table discussion on various subjects will be held.”²²

Over time, the potential contribution of a national office came into sharper focus. Particularly significant in this context was a decision taken in 1940 to launch the society’s first national grant program – a competition for the “best student essay” in political science. Suspended during the war, the competition was relaunched in 1953, with a “single prize of \$100 to be awarded for the best paper submitted by an undergraduate student in a university or college having a chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha.”²³ Dozens of students have subsequently received the award, and from 1999 onwards the society has given out two annual prizes for outstanding papers – the Best Undergraduate Honors Thesis award and the Best Undergraduate Class Paper award. These awards come with cash prizes of \$250 for the winners and \$100 for the runners-up.

The 1940 essay competition offered a harbinger of things to come. As the *Newsletter* observed, “During the past two or three years, Pi Sigma Alpha has passed from adolescence to maturity. There are now over thirty chapters of the organization, and now instead of emphasizing more expansion there is a tendency to place greater emphasis on work within the chapters.”²⁴ Or as President Herman James soberly insisted at the society’s sixth biennial meeting, in December 1940, “the fraternity has reached a point in its development where it must do something worthwhile or do nothing.”²⁵

The Long Midcentury: Pi Sigma Alpha, 1940-1990

Pi Sigma Alpha underwent substantial changes between the 1940s and the end of the Cold War. Prior to World War II, the society was primarily based at land grant institutions in the Midwest, South, and West Coast. After the war, the organization became a genuinely cross-country operation. It was in this period that the society established a national office, strengthened its ties to the American Political Science Association, and undertook initiatives that sought to raise the society's profile within the profession. In addition, the society joined the Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS) in 1948.²⁶

The ecosystem within which Pi Sigma Alpha operated was itself in flux. As Terence Ball has observed, "it is in the postwar period" that the "institutional infrastructure" of "social science research and training" expanded exponentially – from "governmental granting agencies, private foundations, the modern multiversity, and the increasingly professionalization of the social sciences themselves,"²⁷ to disciplinary honor societies. University systems across the country opened new campuses and student numbers surged. The higher education enrollment rate nearly quadrupled from 1940 to 1970, resulting in what some observers described as the democratization of higher ed. There were 330,000 undergraduates in the United States in 1916. By 1965 that number had reached nearly 6 million, and by 2019 the figure was around 18 million.²⁸

These changes did not manifest themselves all at once. The war constituted an interregnum so far as Pi Sigma Alpha was concerned. Many chapters went dormant, the newsletter suspended publication, and no new chapters were added. As secretary-treasurer John W. Manning noted in 1946,

Like most American educational institutions, Pi Sigma Alpha shared the sorrows and joys of America at war. Along with education generally, the fraternity lost some of its activities during the period 1941-46; but built upon the solid foundation that it is, the fraternity has survived, and is on its way to greater usefulness. When there are few students in college, there are few to take an interest and participate in fraternity affairs. But when the drums of war are silenced and the trek starts back to college, it is perfectly natural that fraternity activities follow the same pattern.²⁹

The first chapter to be added after WWII was at Utah State University, which was one of 15 chapters to sign up during the second half of the decade. After that numbers started to climb. Forty-nine chapters were added in the 1950s, 38 in the 1960s, 108 in the 1970s, and 152 in the 1980s. As chapters opened, the number of initiates rose. In the 1950s, 3727 new members joined Pi Sigma Alpha. That figure jumped from 10,334 in the 1960s, to 30,832 in the 1970s, to 41,315 in the 1980s.

Along with membership and chapter growth came questions of strategic vision. The relevant conversations mostly took place behind closed doors, but the *Newsletter* sometimes featured pieces on the organization's past, present, and future. In 1952, Vice President Arnold J. Lien published an article on "Pi Sigma Alphans in a World in Transition," in which he called for expanding the society's horizons:

In this age when so many of the human relationships are seriously out of joint and so many men have lost their moorings, the balance and poise that are looked for in every candidate for Pi Sigma Alpha need to be revitalized and refurbished as a precaution against frustration and despair. For renewed encouragement and confidence there is a need to look back to see in magnificent perspective the whole course of mankind and to read again the inscriptions of the great milestones along the way. As a stimulus to hope and expectation there is a need to project the vision far into the future along directions traceable out

ISC Plans Institute Of Government

Members of Pi Sigma Alpha, national political science honorary scholastic fraternity, is now planning the annual Idaho State college Institute of Government, March 17-18.

The Institute of Government is sponsored jointly by the political science department and Pi Sigma Alpha to simulate interest in contemporary government discussion questions. The institute of government offers an opportunity for students and townfolks to hear first hand the views and opinions of informed people in this region.

Gov. Robert E. Smylie is expected to attend both the panel discussions and the dinner. An honorary membership in Pi Sigma Alpha will be conferred upon him at the dinner.

Scott W. Monson, publicity chairman, announced that a more detailed report of featured speakers, and panel members, will be announced as soon as all confirma-

tions are received.

Also appointed as committee chairmen were: Dinner, Sherwin Broadhead; programs, Dan Jones, and tickets, Darrel Anderson.

PENN

ALWAYS FIRST



of the past into the present. For a realistic picture of the present there is a need to combine the intimate local scene with new and extended horizons encompassing the entire world in all of its complexity.³⁰

Lien left it to others to work out how to turn this “magnificent perspective” into a concrete plan of action. But his colleagues were also thinking about next steps. A couple of years after Lien’s article appeared, Pi Sigma Alpha’s EC convened an ad hoc Committee on Program to consider how best to deploy the society’s resources. In its 1956 preliminary report, the Committee noted that an honor society like Pi Sigma Alpha

needs a significant and challenging program. It must be a worthwhile program because the competition for the time and attention of superior students is quite keen on many campuses. Unless it is worthwhile, it will neither capture nor hold the interest of students of superior ability and accomplishment, and these are the only ones that we are interested in.³¹

The authors proposed that the society host regional student conferences, and an annual lecture series, along with a “carefully planned program” that would be “designed to acquaint members with the various types of jobs open to individuals with professional training in this field,” from teaching and electoral politics to government research. Their report mooted the possibility of launching “one or more PSA scholarships,” but warned “there is little that our society, with its meagre resources, could contribute.” They also revisited the idea of launching a journal, but noted that committee members “thought there were too many journals already, that they could not read the ones they already have, etc.”³²

Some initiatives were oriented toward the discipline rather than the membership per se. At the end of the 1950s, for example, the EC underwrote the publication of an edited volume on *Major Problems in State Constitutional Revision* (1960).³³ Two of its chapters were penned by former presidents, Charles W. Shull (1941-47) and Harvey Walker. In the book’s Foreword, W. Brooke Graves, Don L. Bowen, and Franklin Burdette announced that this “first volume of essays” would contribute to “a projected series on major problems in American government.”³⁴ Sales were respectable, and the society sponsored a second book on public administration, *Administrative Questions and Political Answers* (1966), edited by former presidents Claude E. Hawley and Ruth G. Weintraub.³⁵ The proposed series on governmental problems never materialized, however.

In 1963, the organization announced an award of \$250 for the best paper presented at the APSA Annual Meeting, which is now known as the Burdette/

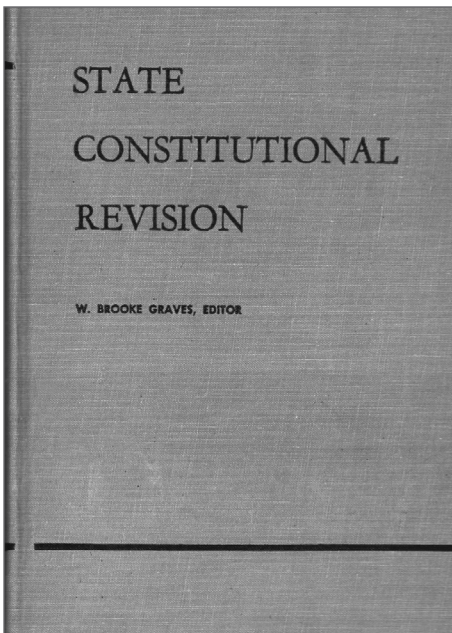
Pi Sigma Alpha Award. In the same year the society established an award “for the best doctoral dissertation making during the year a contribution to the conceptualization of political science.”³⁶ For several years in the 1960s the society awarded \$250 for the best paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Society for Public Administration.

These new projects suggested a growing ambitiousness on the part of the society’s leadership. As Don Bowen noted in the *Newsletter*, “Programs carried on through the national office are playing an increasing role in Society affairs.” Of “fundamental importance,” he added, are the “work-a-day headquarters functions including publication of this *Newsletter*, chartering new chapters, enrolling new members, and planning and coordinating the host of other services that only a national secretariat can provide.”³⁷

But the process of institutional reform moved slowly. During the society’s first half-century, the EC was cautious not only about spending money but challenging established protocols. Its leaders were especially wary about admitting new chapters unless they resembled those that were already at the table. In the late 1930s, the Executive Committee affirmed “that the fraternity should take no action which would lower its present high scholastic requirements.”³⁸ Nearly two decades later, the Committee on Expansion Policy argued that “in case of doubtful situations we should institute our own inspections of the institution and its petitioning departments.”³⁹ The

Executive Committee endorsed the view that “what is needed at this time is establishment of standards of admission that will preserve the standing of the society.”⁴⁰ It took the position that “while the constitution specifies that a majority of the EC is sufficient to approve the establishment of a new chapter, it is safe to assume that the EC would not give such approval contrary to the wishes of even a single member.”⁴¹

This combination of consensus-seeking, institutional inertia, and routinized gatekeeping would prove a liability when the organization confronted the central political challenge of the postwar period, that of desegregation and civil rights. Yet the conversation over whether and



Major Problems in State Constitutional Revision. 1960. Published by the Public Administration Service. Sponsored by Pi Sigma Alpha. From Pi Sigma Alpha archives.

when to admit chapters at historically Black institutions of higher education would also have the effect of pushing the society in the direction of a more inclusive approach toward chapter expansion in general.

Pi Sigma Alpha's founding documents made no effort to restrict membership based on race, ethnicity, gender, or other social attributes. From the outset, African Americans and members of other minority groups were eligible to join if they were matriculated at an institution with an existing chapter. Until the 1950s, however, the society had never considered whether applications to start new chapters would be accepted from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

This issue was placed on the front burner when the chair of Atlanta University's political science program, William Madison Boyd, contacted the national office in 1952 about starting a chapter at the country's oldest graduate institution with a predominantly African American student population.⁴² Boyd (1916-56) was no stranger to either political science or the cause of civil rights. He earned his Ph.D. in political science from the University of Michigan and was the president of the Georgia chapter of the NAACP. His circle of friends included Martin Luther King, Thurgood Marshall, Walter White, and Whitney Young. He died of leukemia at the age of forty.⁴³

Boyd's letter compelled the organization's leadership to take a stand on a specific form of institutional segregation at a time when such practices were coming under far greater scrutiny than ever before. Tellingly, his application was initially rebuffed by the society's secretary-treasurer, Joseph R. Starr. In his response, Starr wrote that, "The Association of College Honor Societies, of which Pi Sigma Alpha is an affiliated member, has under

Atlanta U. Gets Political Science Frat

(Special to The Times)

ATLANTA — Pi Sigma Alpha, national honorary fraternity for students in political science, has been installed at Atlanta University Center here. Announcement was made by Dr. Rufus E. Clement, university president.

This is the second charter to be granted to a Negro institution. The other was granted to Howard University. Both charters were issued at the same meeting.

SPEARHEADER HONORED

Gamma Lambda chapter, the 79th in the organization, was initiated and installed by Dr. Cullen Gosnell of Emory University department of political science. He was assisted by another faculty member and two Emory students.

The late Dr. William M. Boyd, former chairman of the political science department at Atlanta University, who initiated the petition for a chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha at the university center, was named as a charter member.

Dr. Clarence A. Bacote of AU represented Dr. Boyd at the rites which were attended by Dr. Boyd's widow, Mrs. Betty Boyd.

INDUCTEES LISTED

Dr. Clement was inducted as an honorary member and Dr. Robert H. Brisbane, Morehouse College political science professor, was named as faculty adviser.

The initiates, all Morehouse College students, are John Barber, Detroit; Brinston Collins, Norfolk; Willie J. Davis, Fort Valley, Ga.; Andrew A. Ezenkwele, Nigeria, West Africa; W. E. Durante Fisher, Bronx, N.Y.; Donald W. Jones, Orlando; Paul F. Thompson, Kinston, N.C.; Melvin Ladson, Richmond Heights, and Charles A. Walton, Indianapolis.

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, Morehouse president, presided.

consideration the question of admission of an honor society having chapters in institutions of higher learning similar to Atlanta University. I feel that the establishment of a chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha in one such institution presents a similar question, which we should not decide until we have the policy of the larger organization, the Association of College Honor Societies, for our guidance."⁴⁴ Rather than taking a stand against segregation, or for that matter defending it, Starr punted in hopes that other organizations would take the lead and any heat that came with it.

Starr's circumspect response received some push back from other key figures in the society, however. Among them was the Emory University chapter advisor, Cullen B. Gosnell, who wrote to Starr the following year to urge that the society revisit its decision. "It seems to me," Gosnell said, "that we should change our policy and admit them now, especially as I understand it, that Phi Beta Kappa has recently admitted a Negro university. I would like to start the ball rolling. Perhaps we first poll the Executive Committee. Anyhow, I would like to initiate a move to reverse our policy and I will leave it to you as to procedure."⁴⁵ Other



Dr. Ralph Bunche. Civil Rights March on Washington. 08/28/1963.
Location: Still Picture Records LICON, Special Media Archives
Services. Public Domain.

Executive Committee members also weighed in on the side of admitting Atlanta University. Finally, in February 1956, President Don L. Bowen wrote to inform Professor Boyd that, "it is my great pleasure to inform you that the chapters of Pi Sigma Alpha have approved Atlanta University's petition for membership. The Atlanta chapter will be known as Gamma Lambda."⁴⁶

A Pi Sigma Alpha chapter was established at Howard University in the same year. Ralph Bunche, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1950, chaired the political science department at Howard from 1928 to 1950 and served as the inaugural faculty advisor to the University's chapter.

The impact of a growing civil rights movement was

March 6, 1981

Dear Dr. Penniman:

Epsilon Lambda thought the following information might be noteworthy and newsworthy for announcement in our society's newsletter.

Epsilon is proud to note that two, that's ³right two, charter members of our East Carolina chapter have become United States Senators. The two are Senator Robert Morgan, 1973-1981, and Senator John P. East, present member of this elite club. Republican East narrowly defeated Democrat Morgan this past election. This, we feel, is a significant and interesting fact which we would like to share.

Recent programs: 1/28 Charles Vincent, Greenville attorney and former member of city council; 2/18 Dr. Merritt Stark Volunteer Physician to Viet Nam; 3/4 Dr. Robert Maddox former speech writer and special assistant to the president during the Carter Admin. Thank you. Richard Jones, Sec-Tres

1981 Postcard to the National Office from the Secretary-Treasurer of the Epsilon Lambda chapter (East Carolina University). From the Pi Sigma Alpha archives.

reflected not only in the admission of two HBCUs, but the EC's decision to turn down an application from the University of Alabama in the wake of the segregationist riots that erupted there in February 1956.⁴⁷ As the UCLA chapter noted, Alabama's flagship university had fallen "far short of the standard of behavior expected of an American institution of higher learning." The chapter proposed that the University should be admitted into membership only when it meets "the federal constitutional requirement as set-up by the Supreme Court of the United States of equal protections before the law and equal opportunity for all races."⁴⁸ It would not be until 1982 that one of the three main University of Alabama campuses, UA-Huntsville, opened a Pi Sigma Alpha chapter.

The ways in which the organization approached issues of inclusion and expansion changed dramatically after the 1950s. The society came to place far less emphasis on institutional gatekeeping and a much greater weight on promoting the society and its programs across a variety of institutional settings. The success of the civil rights movement helped foreground issues of access, power, and privilege, and to cast long-established educational practices in an unflattering light. The remarkable expansion of higher education in the postwar era also helped recast the society's relationship to the question of which type of programs and students deserved a place at the table. In effect, the rapid growth in undergraduate enrollments, and the popularity of political science as an undergraduate major, created more opportunities for institutionalizing the discipline than ever before.

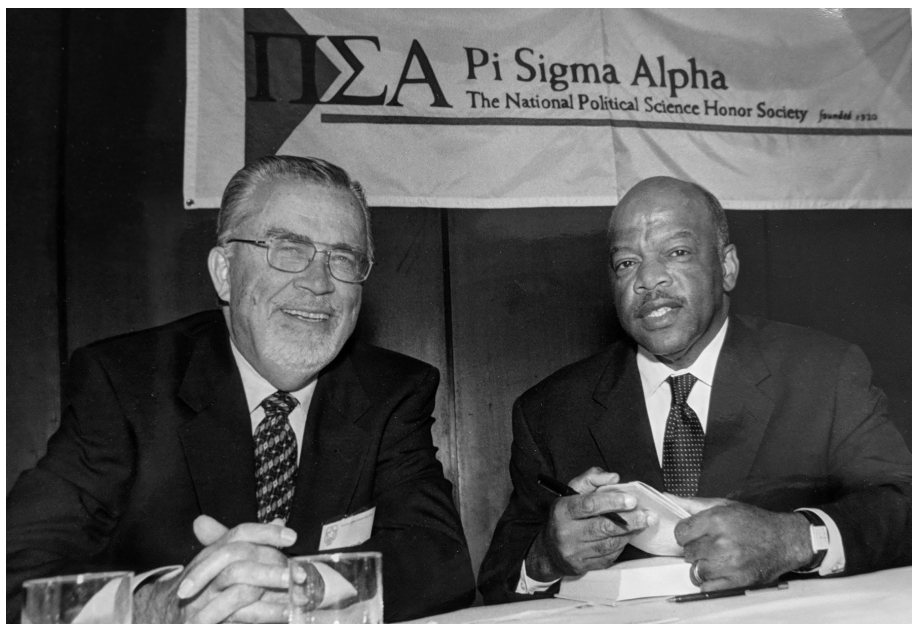
Renewal and Growth: Pi Sigma Alpha, 1990 to the Present

Pi Sigma Alpha gained new members, new chapters, and a renewed sense of purpose in the period between 1990 and 2022. New initiatives were introduced, and the organization's finances were placed on a sounder footing. The impact of Pi Sigma Alpha on the professional development of undergraduates and recent graduates was greater than ever.

Chapter and membership growth were particularly impressive. One hundred and twenty-eight chapters were added in the 1990s, 176 between 2000-09, and another 135 between 2010-19. The number of initiates broadly correlated with the number of chapters. Just under 56,000 individuals were inducted in the 1990s, 79,163 in the 2000-09 period, and another 70,774 in 2010-19. A total of 315,439 men and women were inducted between 1920-2018. While most of the earliest inductees were men, the ratio of male and female inductees attained parity during the society's second half-century.

Collaborations with the American Political Science Association continued. Notices about the society's activities began appearing in *PS: Political Science and Politics* in the 1970s, and Pi Sigma Alpha started hosting receptions for chapter leaders at the Association's conventions in the 1980s. For over a decade the two organizations underwrote the Political Science Oral History Program, "so that future political scientists will be able to hear and read" what eminent scholars "had to say about their lives, their careers, and their involvement in the discipline."⁴⁹ Fifteen of the resulting interviews are collected in *Political Science in America: Oral Histories of a Discipline* (1991). And from 1991 to 2010 the society sponsored an annual lecture series at APSA conventions, featuring future Vice President Dick Cheney, Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, political writer William Kristol, and other guests.

In 1981, the society began awarding activity grants to individual chapters. In the program's first year the organization gave out almost \$5,000 to 15 chapters. Two years on, awards ranging from \$100 to \$750 "were given for such projects as a carefully worked out speaker series, panels for the presentation of student papers, the publication of political handbooks or journals, film series with guest commentators followed by discussions, and chapter awards for the political science paper written by a student judged best either in the school or regional competition."⁵⁰ To date, Pi Sigma Alpha has dispersed over one million dollars through its Chapter Activity Grant program. The grant program permits "chapters to put together projects with a broader scope than they otherwise could afford and gives students excellent experience in writing proposals and budgets, carrying out funded activities, and writing reports."⁵¹



William Keefe and Rep. John Lewis. Pi Sigma Alpha speaker series. From *Pi Sigma Alpha Newsletter* (in Pi Sigma Alpha archives). 1999.

In 1995 the organization launched the Pi Sigma Alpha Scholarship award, the Best Chapter Award, and the Chapter Advisor Award. The Scholarship award provided a grant of \$1,250, subsequently raised to \$2000, to a worthy member who is commencing graduate studies. The first recipient of the award was Allison Spitzer, a University of Florida graduate who went on to study public administration at Florida Atlantic University. Over 100 students received the Pi Sigma Alpha Scholarship, now renamed the Howard Penniman Graduate Scholarship, between 1995 and 2022.

The Best Chapter Award recognizes chapters that have engaged in outstanding levels of activity. Currently the national office recognizes up to six chapters each year in each of four enrollment categories (schools with enrollment under 5,000; from 5,000 to 15,000; from 15,000 to 25,000; and over 25,000) with a prize of \$500 and an additional \$200 to the chapter advisor. The prize money allocated to the winning chapters is designed to encourage new and creative programming.

The Chapter Advisor Award calls attention to the crucial role of faculty advisors in the life of campus chapters. Since its founding the award has recognized more than 60 advisors for their commitment to the organization.⁵² In its current form, there are two distinct awards. The first is the James Lengle Chapter Advisor Recognition Award, renamed to honor former Executive Director Jim Lengle in 2015. This award is presented annually to one faculty

CHAPTER NEWS — FALL 2007

Professor Joe Howard, the new faculty advisor for **Alpha Delta Theta** chapter at the University of Central Arkansas, reports that the chapter has been busy in the early Fall—holding organizational meetings at which officers were elected for the year and plans were made for chapter activities. Additionally, the chapter sponsored a Department of Political Science tailgate social in mid-September, and members have organized a “Careers In Public Service Day” by gathering information from various law schools and graduate schools in Political Science, Public Administration and International Studies. Interested parties can learn more about the event by going to <http://www.uca.edu/divisions/academic/politicalscience/publicservice.htm>. Alpha Delta Theta chapter also plans to host more football tailgate socials, a voter registration drive and various speakers throughout the coming academic year.

Professor Fred Slocum, chapter advisor of **Upsilon Alpha** chapter at Minnesota State University, Mankato, reports that their biggest chapter news of late is a trip to Chicago in Spring, 2007 semester—“Our chapter was awarded a \$2,000 Chapter Activity Grant to support students attending the Midwest Political Science Association conference in Chicago, April 12-15, 2007. I was on sabbatical spring semester, so I traveled to Chicago from Iowa City, IA (where I was spending my sabbatical). MSU students Melissa

Andersen, Mary O'Connor, Justin Newman, Takehito Kamata, Dave Gindorff, and Andrew Ansel flew from Minneapolis to Chicago, and we met up on April 12, at the welcome reception, at various panels and social events, and for many meals. Students gained the experience of a major academic conference in political science, and the travel experience of spending several days in one of the world's great cities.”

Chi Psi Chapter Advisor Dr. Henry B. Sirgo is serving as 2007-2008 Fulbright Senior Scholar at Yonsei University in Seoul, Korea. He is currently teaching a course entitled *The U.S. Presidency and the Executive Process*. During his absence from McNeese State University (LA), Dr. Albert C. Ringelstein is looking after chapter responsibilities. The first president of the chapter, Dr. Dominic Beggan of Lamar University, participated in a Fulbright-Hayes grant in the Middle East during the summer of 2007.

Eta Lambda chapter at Clemson University put together an exciting “professor vs. professor” debate for the Clemson community on September 17, 2007. In honor of Constitution Day, the chapter presented a debate between Drs. William Lasser and Adam Warber on conservative vs. liberal perspectives on the resignation and overall job performance of former U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales.



Above: Chapter photo of newly-inducted members of **Alpha Alpha Psi** chapter, Fayetteville State University (NC), the chapter was chartered in 2003, and is one of **nine** North Carolina colleges or universities to receive a new Pi Sigma Alpha charter since 2000—giving the Tarheel State the opportunity to share with Pennsylvania and California the award for **most new chapters** started since that time (for now)!

Pi Sigma Alpha Newsletter, Fall 2007. From the Pi Sigma Alpha archives.

advisor to recognize their long service to Pi Sigma Alpha and a consistently strong chapter under their leadership. The award carries a cash prize of \$1,000 and a letter of commendation. The national office also honors up to five advisors annually with a Best Chapter Advisor Award, which provides \$200 to advisors of selected Best Chapters.

In 2004 the society established the Washington Internship Scholarship program. Recipients receive \$2,000 and must be enrolled in a credit-based

internship in Washington, DC to be eligible. In 2012 the award was renamed the Nancy McManus Washington Internship Scholarship in honor of longtime national office administrator Nancy McManus. In 2014 the Executive Council added an additional \$1,000 in funding for up to two winners based on their financial need. Seventy students have received this scholarship since its inception.

In 2014 Pi Sigma Alpha launched its annual National Student Research Conference. Developed to provide a platform for members to present their research findings in a professional setting, the first conference was held at

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are prompt and efficient. I know that the Executive Council and the Executive Committee join me in inviting anyone involved with Pi Sigma Alpha to share their views and ideas with us. We are looking forward to a rejuvenated organization and are interested in any new initiatives that prove to be worthy and supportable. Please do not hesitate to make your views known to me by writing to me at the national office. The Executive Committee will be meeting periodically throughout the year to implement and review our new initiatives and we would welcome any suggestions.

A Message from the Editor *Continued from page 1*

Sigma Alpha chapters, student members, and faculty advisors are doing that might enrich the intellectual lives of chapters on other campuses. At the very least that means that we shall want to share information about programs funded by Pi Sigma Alpha Chapter Activities grants. But we realize that there is an enormous amount of creativity amongst our chapters, including many that function on the proverbial shoestring.

Obviously the scale of the newsletter is such that I cannot promise to publish something about every chapter or every good curricular or pedagogical idea that Pi Sigma Alpha people may have. If the interest is sufficient and the budget permits, we may be able to expand the Newsletter some day. For now, I ask our readers—student and faculty—to consider contributing one of two types of short pieces: (1) a 100-200 word descriptive profile of a genuinely noteworthy Pi Sigma Alpha program initiative, or (2) a 500-700 word “op-ed” style essay on a salient political science curricular, co-curricular, or teaching development in a Pi Sigma Alpha department. Our policy will be to give preference to contributions from campuses where Pi Sigma Alpha is making its presence known and felt.

As for format, we will consider your contribution seriously as long as it is well-written, typed, and within the length limits. In the unlikely event that we are swamped with contributions, we may have to devise more elaborate review procedures. For now, and for the foreseeable future, however, we hope to publish about a half-dozen short profiles and one or two longer essays per issue. We have ideas of our own about what appropriate topics and themes might be, but on the first round we shall be content to see what our readers have on their minds. We look forward to hearing from you.

Send submissions to : Prof. Charles M. Tidmarch, Editor; Pi Sigma Alpha Newsletter, Dept. of Political Science, Union College, Schenectady, N.Y. 12308, Phone (518) 370-6224, FAX (518) 370-6656.

Chapter officers and advisors should continue to send reports on chapter activities and election of officers to the Pi Sigma Alpha National Office in Washington. (See p. 8 of this issue for a form to be

Cheney Delivers First P.S.A. Lecture

Secretary of Defense Richard B. Cheney delivered the first Pi Sigma Alpha Lecture to a standing-room-only crowd at the Annual Meetings of the American Political Science Association in Washington, D.C. on Thursday, August 29, 1991. Mr. Cheney, at one time a graduate student in political science and a former APSA Congressional Fellow prior to service in the Ford White House and as a Representative from Wyoming (elected six times 1978-1988), spoke in the immediate aftermath of the unsuccessful August coup attempt in the Soviet Union. He cautioned that excessive euphoria about the collapse of communism was unwarranted, for as old problems disappear, new ones inevitably arise. In this case, said Cheney, the fragility of democratic institutions, the uncertain state of the economy, the murky future of



Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney Delivering the First Pi Sigma Alpha Lecture at meetings of the American Political Science Association.

Georgetown University and attracted 20 presenters. By 2019 the event had moved to George Washington University and was drawing nearly 200 student presenters, attendees, and faculty to take part in a now multi-day event that included a professional day where students engaged with panelists about attending law school, graduate school, and living and working in DC. They also heard from Washington insiders covering topical areas across politics and policy.

In 2014-19 some 450 students presented their research at the National Student Research Conferences, representing 159 chapters from across the country. For many participants the conference experience is the ideal springboard for graduate or law school. Liza Gordan, who presented at the first conference in 2014 as an undergraduate from Slippery Rock University, later reflected “at the time I presented at the 2014 student conference I was considering pursuing a graduate degree after graduating and the atmosphere at the conference helped convince me that graduate school was the right choice for me.” University of Vermont faculty advisor Bob Pepperman Taylor described the conference as

one of the more inspiring events I’ve had the chance to participate in recently. I was terribly impressed by the students as a group. I loved the way they participated all day, mingled, got to know one another, and seemed genuinely excited about the weekend. You’re really doing something important here, I think. This is a major event in many of these kids’ lives.⁵³



Maya Rockeymoore Cummings and conference participants. National Student Research Conference, 2020. From the Pi Sigma Alpha archives.



Pi Sigma Alpha induction ceremony at Beta Xi, University of Richmond, Spring 2022.

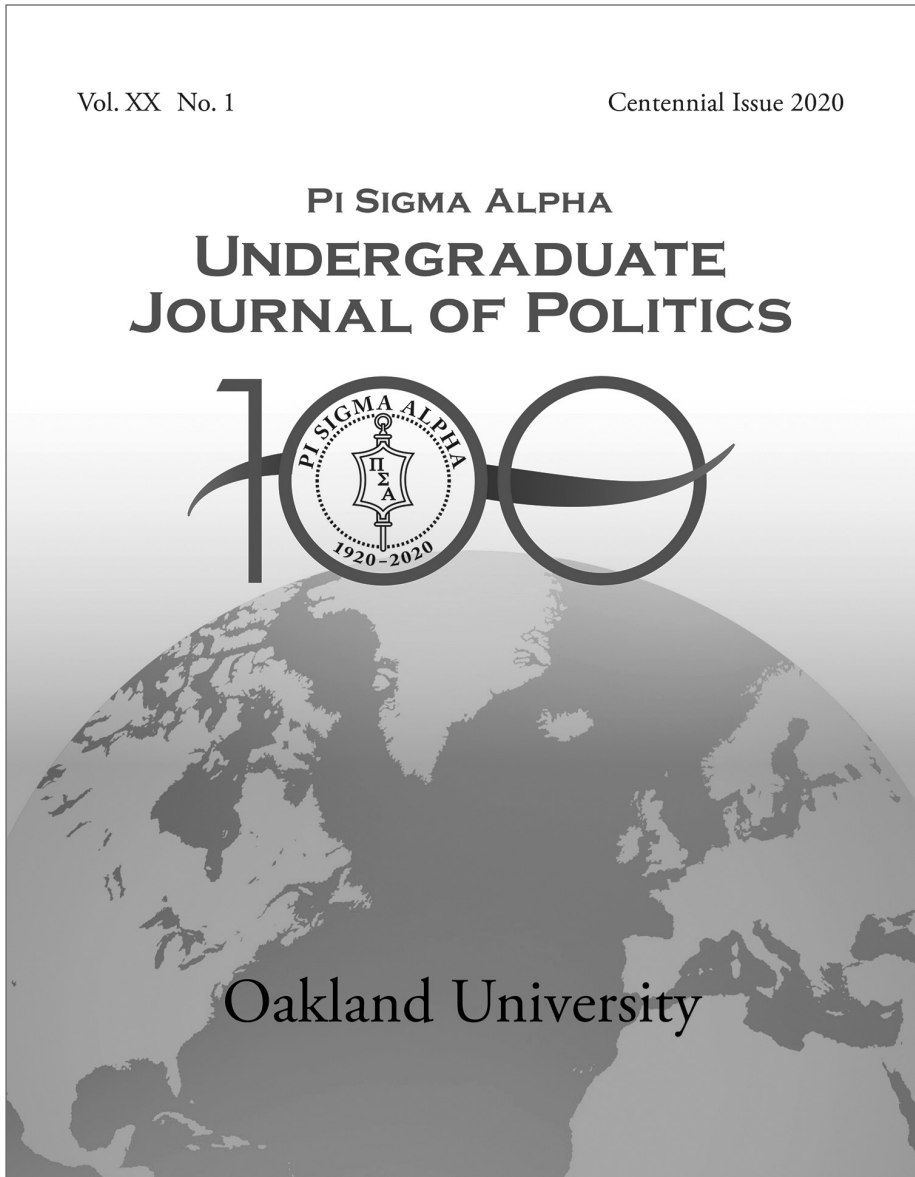
The last in-person conference held prior to the COVID-19 pandemic took place in Washington in February 2020. It was here that Maya Rockeymoore Cummings, a congressional candidate and student of Jewel Prestage, spoke and received a standing ovation. The subsequent pandemic forced the conference online for 2021 and 2022.

Some participants were naturally disappointed that the 2021 and 2022 research conferences were held online, which precludes the kind of informal socializing that can accompany the in-person conference experience. On the other hand, the shift to an online format allowed a greater number of students to participate in the event, given that travel and lodging costs were no longer a factor. In 2023 the National Student Research Conference will return to its traditional in-person format, while also featuring some virtual panels.

Expanding on the success of the national event, in 2017 the society began sponsoring regional student research conferences. These smaller events are planned and executed by chapters with support from the national office. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, those events were put on hold in 2021-22, though there are plans to restart these regional events in 2023.

Also noteworthy was the launching of *The Pi Sigma Alpha Undergraduate Journal of Politics* in 2004 by the Delta Omega chapter advised by Rosalee Clawson at Purdue University.⁵⁴ The *Journal* is “truly national in scope, receiving submissions from students at institutions across the entire country. Furthermore, manuscripts have been submitted by students from many different types of institutions: small liberal arts colleges; state universities;

large, private colleges and universities; Ivy League schools; religious colleges and universities; and military colleges.”⁵⁵ Forty-six issues of *The Pi Sigma Alpha Undergraduate Journal of Politics* have appeared to date, featuring over two hundred articles.⁵⁶ The *Journal* switched to an online format in the early 2000s and regularly posts announcements and calls for papers on social media. In fall 2020 the *Journal* published a special Centennial Issue that reprinted twelve articles from the publication’s first two decades.⁵⁷



Key Figures

Pi Sigma Alpha could easily have stalled out in the manner of an Alpha Pi Zeta were it not for the students, faculty advisors, and society leaders who invested time and energy into the organization. The human factor was crucial at a time when the society operated out of faculty offices and depended on the generosity of deans and department chairs for necessities like stamps, stationary, and telephone lines. A reservoir of good will and voluntary labor was required to simply keep things running. It is also the case that speaker series and similar kinds of chapter activities reflected the enthusiasm and energy of student members and their advisors rather than incentives offered by a national office.

Yet the history of the national leadership is easier to reconstruct than the evolution of individual chapters. Even the most successful and long-lived chapters are unlikely to undertake oral histories or maintain extensive files. Back issues of the *Newsletter* are a valuable resource, but its coverage of chapter activities is uneven, with a focus on standalone events rather than the *long durée*.⁵⁸ For this reason, the national office would be delighted to hear from anyone with photographs, memorabilia, oral histories, and other items pertaining to the history of Pi Sigma Alpha and its campus chapters.

If the past activities of campus chapters rarely turn up in search engines, past presidents are easier to track. As we have learned, Caleb Perry Patterson (1880-1971), who served as president of Pi Sigma Alpha for over a decade, was a pivotal figure in the organization's development. Remarkably, Patterson was still enrolled in graduate school when he became the society's president; he received his doctorate from Columbia University in 1923. A specialist in constitutional law, Patterson's books include *The Administration of Justice in Great Britain* (1936), *Presidential Government in the United States* (1947), and *The Constitutional Principles of Thomas Jefferson* (1953).⁵⁹ When Patterson stepped down in 1932 the Executive Committee named him Honorary President for Life.

Another instrumental personality was Charles G. Haines, Patterson's departmental chair and mentor. Haines, one of the driving forces behind the decision to launch a national honor society, served as Pi Sigma Alpha's third president. His books include *Principles and Problems of Government* (1921, with Bertha Moser Haines), *The Role of the Supreme Court in American Government and Politics* (1957) and *The American Doctrine of Judicial Supremacy* (1959).

Herman G. James, the society's fifth president, was another key instigator. His books include *Principles of Prussian Administration* (1912), *Applied City Government: The Principles and Practice of City Charter Making* (1914), and *Local Government in the United States* (1921).

Not every Pi Sigma Alpha president from this period boasted a Texan lineage. The society's second president, Charles W. Pipkin (1932-34), taught at Louisiana State University, and penned books on *The Idea of Social Justice* (1931), *Social Politics and Modern Democracies* (1931), and *Social Legislation in the South* (1936). The fourth president, Harvey Walker (1936-38), was based at Ohio State University and had been inducted into Pi Sigma Alpha as an undergraduate in 1922 at the University of Kansas. His books include *Federal Limitations Upon Municipal Ordinance-Making Power* (1929) and *Constructive Government in Ohio* (1948). Pipkin and Walker were both close to C. Perry Patterson, which highlights the gravitational pull of UT-Austin during the society's first decades, with departmental members and alum sometimes referring to themselves as the "Texas mafia" in jest.⁶⁰

UT PhDs often started chapters when they landed jobs at other institutions. Francis G. Wilson, the founding advisor of the University of Washington chapter, was a Texas alum, as was Roscoe Martin, who was inducted in 1924 and started a chapter at Syracuse University in 1950. E. Comer Clay Jr., inducted in 1935, was the founding advisor at Texas Christian University in 1952. Sterling H. Fuller, inducted in 1949, went on to become the founding advisor of the University of Missouri-Kansas City chapter in 1975; Samuel Bertram McAllister, who received the department's second doctorate, was the founding advisor of the University of North Texas chapter in 1954. Leo Riethmayer, inducted in 1938, was the founding advisor at Texas Tech in 1939, and then at the University of Colorado at Boulder in 1959.

Yet by the 1940s the role of the Texas department was no longer as central as it had once been. Responsibility for steering the society gradually shifted toward the mid-Atlantic region, as scholars in and around the District of Columbia assumed a prominent role via the presidency and the EC. It was hardly accidental that the first Pi Sigma Alpha student conference was held at American University in October 1960.⁶¹ Not all executive officers in this midcentury period hailed from the mid-Atlantic and southwest regions. But these two geographic nodes supplied most of the ideas, energy, and personnel at this critical juncture in the society's history.

Interestingly, the two leadership cohorts can be distinguished in intellectual terms as well as spatial ones. While the UT-affiliated faculty of the interwar years were interested in law and politics, postwar DC-area leaders tended to focus on public administration and electoral studies. In both instances the U.S. case loomed large, but the work of the policy and election specialists reflected the impact of the behavioral revolution whereas some of the law and politics cohort produced work that might now be considered political history. Presidents and EC members have more recently been recruited from a widening mix of institutions, fields, and traditions. There does not seem

to be a preeminent intellectual center of gravity in the way there was in the 1920s-30s and 1950s-80s.

The postwar era was one of several “firsts,” as was the period that followed. The first female member of the Executive Council, Mona Fletcher of Kent State University, served from 1952-56. Fletcher’s coedited book *State Legislatures* came out in 1954. The first female president was Ruth Weintraub (1964-66), who taught at Hunter College. Weintraub earned a PhD from Columbia and a law degree from New York University. A specialist in civil rights and constitutional law, her books include *How Secure These Rights?* (1949) and *Government Corporations and State Law* (1968).

The society’s first and to date only Hispanic president was Naomi B. Lynn, who was also the first Hispanic female president of a public university – the University of Illinois at Springfield. She was the society’s president in 1992-94. With Aaron Wildavsky, Lynn coedited *Public Administration: The State of the Discipline* (1990).

The first and to date only African American president of Pi Sigma Alpha, Alice M. Jackson, is an expert in health policy and public administration who teaches at Morgan State University. She was the society’s president in 2012-14 and before joining the Morgan State faculty was the Chief Executive Officer of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers. Dr. Jackson served on APSA’s Committee on the Status of Blacks in the Profession, has written several books including *The Political Process of Health Care Reform* (2010), and contributed to a number of scholarly journals including *History*, *Perspectives on Politics*, and *PS: Political Science and Politics*.

Each of the society’s presidents have been active in APSA, and a number have risen to leadership roles in the Association. For example, Charles G. Haines served as Pi Sigma Alpha president in 1934-36 and APSA president in 1938-39. Austin Ranney, who taught at Madison, Yale, and Georgetown, was APSA president in 1973-74 and the society’s president in 1976-78. Ranney’s subfield was political parties, and his books include *Democracy and the American Party System* (1956), *Curing the Mischiefs of Faction* (1975), and *Channels of Power* (1985).

Charles O. Jones was president of Pi Sigma Alpha in 1984-86 and APSA in 1993-94. He taught at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, and his research addressed political institutions and public policy. Jones’ books include *The Trusteeship Presidency* (1988), *The Presidency in a Separated System* (2000), and *The American Presidency* (2009). Another notable example is Evron Maurice Kirkpatrick, who served as APSA’s executive director from 1954-81 and as the society’s president from 1974-76. Kirkpatrick was a former member of the Office of Strategic Services (O.S.S.), the forerunner of the Central Intelligence

Agency. After retiring from APSA he became a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute. He edited several books, including *The People, Politics, and the Politician: An Anthology of American Politics in Action* (1950) and *Target: The World, Communist Propaganda Activities in 1955* (1956).

From the 1920s through the 1950s, the secretary-treasurer was responsible for ensuring that checks cleared and that programs were properly funded. In 1960, the Executive Council created a new position, that of executive director, with the understanding that this individual would oversee the society's day-to-day operations. The secretary-treasurer position was eliminated, and Franklin Burdette became the society's first director. A longtime member of the government department at the University of Maryland, Burdette held the position of executive director for fifteen years (1960-75). He was "a member of the national council of the American Political Science Association, served as an editor of the *American Political Science Review*, and was responsible for three editions of the Association's biographical directory."⁶² Burdette's research focused on public policy, and he was the author of *The Republican Party: A Short History* (1968).

Burdette's successor, Howard R. Penniman, served as president from 1966-68 and executive director from 1975-91. Penniman was based at Georgetown and had worked as a senior staffer at the Department of State and the U.S. Information Agency. His research focused on elections and parties, and he was the general editor of the American Enterprise Institute's *At the Polls* book series. Karl H. Cerny, Penniman's successor, also taught at Georgetown. Cerny was president of Pi Sigma Alpha in 1982-84, and interim director from 1991-93. A specialist in comparative electoral politics, Cerny edited three books for Penniman's *At the Polls* series.

Following Cerny's departure, James Lengle served as executive director until 2015. During his long tenure, Lengle modernized the national office and strengthened the organization's ties to the American Political Science Association. Based at Georgetown, Lengle's main area of research was presidential elections. Under Lengle's leadership, the society grew its endowment, added new chapters, and introduced several student-centered initiatives, including the Pi Sigma Alpha Scholarship program and the Chapter Activity Grants program.

Lengle was ably assisted by the organization's first full-time National Office Administrator, Nancy McManus. McManus played a crucial role in recruiting and maintaining contact with faculty advisors. She was a capable and determined advocate for the society and its members, and a diligent record-keeper. To a considerable extent the organization's expansion in the 1990s and early 2000s reflected her efforts. Chapter advisors and Executive Council members often described her as the "heart and soul" of the organization.

Sean Twombly was recruited in 2012 from APSA and became executive director in 2015. He was instrumental in launching the National Student Research Conference. Twombly also organized the society's first virtual induction ceremonies in the spring of 2020 as colleges and universities across the country moved to online instruction in the wake of the pandemic. These were critical events that kept undergraduates connected to Pi Sigma Alpha during a period of great upheaval and stress.

Tanya Schwarz, who earned a PhD in political science from the University of California, Irvine and has published research focused on peacebuilding and international relations, interpretive methods, and pedagogy, took over from Twombly in 2021, under what were obviously trying circumstances. But while the global health emergency placed some activities on hold, the wider political environment continued to generate urgent challenges, from the climate emergency, and calls for racial justice, to deepening concerns about the state of the country's democratic institutions. Schwarz's goals as Pi Sigma Alpha's executive director include a renewed focus on student civic and community engagement, as well as strong commitment to encouraging diversity, equity, and inclusion across all levels of the organization. She will also be closely working with the society's Executive Council to enhance its role and to help revitalize key programs.

Pi Sigma Alpha currently operates on a bigger scale than in previous decades. It offers an expanding menu of scholarships, publications, and conferences. These activities require not only a well-run national office but an enthusiastic and engaged membership that generates lively chapter activities as well as first-rate funding applications, scholarship applications, manuscript submissions, and presentation proposals. Campus chapters and individual members remain the lifeblood of the organization, in other words. As the 1949 edition of the *Information Booklet of the Pi Sigma Alpha Fraternity* pointed out:

It is the aim of Pi Sigma Alpha to be much more than a group of chapters devoted solely to the election of honor students into membership. Each chapter is encouraged to be a working organization throughout the academic year, functioning as an integral part of the political science department in the promotion of worthwhile extracurricular activities related to public affairs. Experience on the various campuses has demonstrated the value of such an organization for the promotion of student interest in political science.⁶³

Toward the Second Century

It seems likely that students and faculty will continue to find value in the honor society model. As Don Bowen once pointed out, “the continuing values” of a society like Pi Sigma Alpha “stem from the feeling of every member of a profession to dignify and popularize his [or her] field of work.”⁶⁴ When the society marks its second centennial in 2120, its future leadership will hopefully confirm what an earlier cohort noted in 1959, that

Pi Sigma Alpha is recognized in the educational world and in political science for the effective accomplishment of its objectives. The society fills an important need in the advancement and diffusion of knowledge and interest in political science among students in collegiate institutions.⁶⁵

In its second century, the society will likely revisit certain programmatic issues. How much emphasis should be placed on expansion versus consolidation? What sorts of initiatives can leave lasting impressions on students and promote thriving campus chapters? Could more be done in terms of alumni/ae outreach? Should the society pursue mergers with honor societies in adjacent fields? The organization once sponsored public lectures, underwrote scholarly volumes, and funded research on the history of political science. Are these kinds of discipline-based activities worth revisiting, or should its programs continue to focus on undergraduates and recent graduates? And so on.

The society will confront novel challenges as well. Instructive in this regard is the rise of predatory journals and the proliferation of fake societies that proffer certificates and memorabilia to graduating seniors without providing scholarships or promoting campus activities. Pi Sigma Alpha’s grants, awards, conferences, and publications all speak to its seriousness of purpose. But getting its message across may become more difficult in an age of ever more sophisticated internet scams.

Pi Sigma Alpha has nevertheless expanded beyond the dreams of its creators. It promotes the cause of rigorous scholarship and inquiry across a wide range of institutions. It hosts student research conferences and sponsors the country’s leading journal of undergraduate political science. It offers a generous menu of programs aimed at upper-level undergraduates and recent graduates. The society is bigger and more ambitious than ever. And yet it is just getting started.

Appendix

Presidents of Pi Sigma Alpha

C. Perry Patterson (1920-32)	Karl H. Cerny (1982-84)
Charles W. Pipkin (1932-34)	Charles O. Jones (1984-86)
Charles G. Haines (1934-36)	William C. Havard (1986-88)
Harvey Walker (1936-38)	Sidney Wise (1988-90)
Herman G. James (1938-40)	Robert J. Huckshorn (1990-92)
Charles W. Shull (1940-46)	Naomi B. Lynn (1992-94)
John W. Manning (1946-48)	David B. Magleby (1994-96)
Ben A. Arneson (1948-50)	John F. Bibby (1996-98)
Claudius O. Johnson (1950-56)	William Keefe (1990-2000)
Franklin L. Burdette (1956-58)	Susan A. MacManus (2000-02)
Claude E. Hawley (1958-60)	David T. Canon (2002-04)
Don L. Bowen (1960-64)	Christopher J. Bosso (2004-06)
Ruth G. Weintraub (1964-66)	Jon Bond (2006-08)
Howard R. Penniman (1966-68)	James E. Campbell (2008-10)
Charles B. Hagan (1968-70)	Robin Kolodny (2010-12)
John D. Millett (1970-72)	Alice Jackson (2012-14)
George S. Blair (1972-74)	Stephen J. Farnsworth (2014-16)
Evron M. Kirkpatrick (1974-76)	Ronald Rapoport (2016-18)
Austin Ranney (1976-78)	Rosalee A. Clawson (2018-20)
Jack W. Peltason (1978-80)	Zoe M. Oxley (2020-22)
William S. Livingston (1980-82)	Diana M. Owen (2022-24)

Author's Bio

Kent Worcester is a Professor of Political Science at Marymount Manhattan College and a former member of Pi Sigma Alpha's Executive Council (2014-18). His books include *C.L.R. James: A Political Biography* (1996), *The Social Science Research Council, 1923-1998* (2001), and *Navigating Political Science* (2018). The author gratefully acknowledges the research assistance of Chloe Heller and Josh Weiner, as well as the input and guidance provided by Rosalee Clawson, Erika Kotroba, Zoe Oxley, Tanya Schwarz, and Sean Twombly.

ENDNOTES

- 1 Jewel Limar Prestage (1931-2014) completed her doctorate at the University of Iowa in 1954 at the age of 22. Her coedited book, *A Portrait of Marginality: The Political Behavior of the American Woman* (1977) is a milestone in the study of voting behavior.
- 2 This passage is taken from the 2011 revised Constitution. See https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/15578a_519533f7df544a01bed2b74fe36d6ea5.pdf.
- 3 Mark C. Smith, *Social Science in the Crucible: The American Debate Over Objectivity and Purpose, 1918-1941*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1994: 5.
- 4 Immanuel Wallerstein et al., *Open the Social Sciences: Report of the Gulbenkian Commission on the Restructuring of the Social Sciences*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1996: 30.
- 5 C. Perry Patterson, "Founder Cites Purposes of Pi Sigma Alpha." *Newsletter of the Pi Sigma Alpha Fraternity*, December 15, 1949: 1.
- 6 Letter from C. Perry Patterson to Elwyn A. Mauck, November 14, 1949.
- 7 Jeffrey Marsh, "Pi Sigma Alpha." *University of Texas at Austin Political Science Departmental Newsletter*, 2009: 14.
- 8 "History of Pi Sigma Alpha Fraternity," undated memo: 1.
- 9 "Services Set for Yoakum Businesswoman," *Victoria [TX] Advocate*, February 15, 1994: 14.
- 10 Alpha Pi Zeta most notably turns up in obituaries for Katherine A. Towle, secretary-treasurer of its Berkeley chapter and "the first woman to be named dean of students at the University of California at Berkeley and the first director of the Women Marines Association." According to former Pi Sigma Alpha vice-president Eric C. Bellquist, Towle "was a Teaching Assistant in American Institutions," and "in 1935 completed an M.A. dissertation on 'The Exercise of the Presidential Veto Since 1889.' The Chairman of the Department and a former President of the University, David P. Barrows, was her sponsor. Miss Towle has stated that she would have continued advanced graduate work, but ladies were not then encouraged to seek doctorates." See "Katherine Towle, 87, Ex-Dean at Berkeley." *New York Times*, March 8, 1986 (<https://www.nytimes.com/1986/03/08/obituaries/katherine-towle-87-ex-dean-at-berkeley.html>); and Eric C. Bellquist, "Katherine A. Towle, Dean of Students" (<http://texts.cdlib.org/view?docId=kt7m3nb2fx;NAAN=13030&doc.view=frames&chunk.id=d0e180&toc.depth=1&toc.id=d0e131&brand=calisphere>)
- 11 *Constitution of Pi Sigma Alpha Fraternity*. Austin, TX: 1919.
- 12 Patterson, "Founder Cites Purposes of Pi Sigma Alpha": 2.
- 13 Don L. Bowen, "President's Column." *Pi Sigma Alpha Newsletter* 24.1 (November 15, 1960): 2.
- 14 Michael A. Baer, Malcolm E. Jewell, and Lee Sigelman, eds., *Political Science in America: Oral Histories of a Discipline*. Lexington, KY: University of Kentucky Press, 1991: 27. The reference to Harvard is hypothetical. While other Ivies have had active chapters at one point or another, a Harvard chapter has yet to be established.
- 15 A 1938 Newsletter complained that the secretary-treasurer had received several "cold checks" in payment for keys and pins. "In the future, no orders will be filled until the checks have cleared the banks." *Pi Sigma Alpha Newsletter* 6.1 (March 25, 1938): 4.
- 16 "Seldom does the National Office collect dues from every chapter each year. A chapter may be delinquent for a year, and then meet its obligations when a new set of chapter officers are elected. But in this event, seldom does the chapter feel that it should pay its obligations for the previous year [...] If it were not for the very low cost of operation, the National Office could not be financed in the face of such great delinquency on the part of so many chapters." *Pi Sigma Alpha Newsletter* 9.1 (January 15, 1941): 3.
- 17 *Pi Sigma Alpha Newsletter* 1.1 (February 13, 1931): 1.
- 18 Reproduced in Nancy McManus, "What, No More Ceremony?" *Pi Sigma Alpha Newsletter*, Summer 1992: 3-4. See also Thorstein Veblen, *The Higher Learning in America: A Memorandum on the Conduct of Universities by Businessmen*. New York: B.W. Huebsch, 1918: 158-159.

- 19 *Pi Sigma Alpha Newsletter* 8.1 (April 3, 1940): 4.
- 20 *Pi Sigma Alpha Newsletter* 1.1 (February 13, 1931): 4; and *Pi Sigma Alpha Newsletter* 2.1 (October 1, 1931): 3.
- 21 *Pi Sigma Alpha Newsletter* 3.2 (March 5, 1934): 2.
- 22 *Pi Sigma Alpha Newsletter* 3.2 (March 5, 1934): 2.
- 23 *Pi Sigma Alpha Newsletter* 17.1 (November 1, 1953): 2.
- 24 *Pi Sigma Alpha Newsletter* 8.2 (November 20, 1940): 1.
- 25 *Pi Sigma Alpha Newsletter* 9.1 (January 15, 1941): 2.
- 26 As a result of affiliating with the ACHS, the society agreed to restrict membership to upper-level undergraduates and graduate students studying at four-year colleges and universities that were accredited by the regional accrediting associations. First and second-year undergraduates had been previously eligible. The decision to rename the Executive Committee the Executive Council, rather than Committee, was also undertaken in accordance with ACHS guidelines. *Pi Sigma Alpha Newsletter* 13.3 (March 20, 1950): 3.
- 27 Terence Ball, "American Political Science in its Postwar Political Context," in James Farr and Raymond Seidelman, eds. *Discipline and History: Political Science in the United States*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press, 1993: 208.
- 28 See Claudia Goldin and Lawrence F. Katz, "The Shaping of Higher Education: The Formative Years in the United States, 1890 to 1940." *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 13:1 (Winter 1999): 37-62; "College Enrollment Statistics for Public and Private Colleges from 1965 to 2016," <https://www.statista.com/statistics/183995/us-college-enrollment-and-projections-in-public-and-private-institutions/>; and "Undergraduate Enrollment," National Center for Education Statistics, https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator_cha.asp.
- 29 Report of the National Secretary-Treasurer (1946): 1.
- 30 Arnold J. Lien, "Pi Sigma Alphans in a World in Transition." *Pi Sigma Alpha Newsletter*, 15.2 (February 1, 1952): 1.
- 31 Preliminary Report of the Fraternity's Committee on Program, Fall 1956: 1.
- 32 Preliminary Report of the Fraternity's Committee on Program, Fall 1956: 7. Harvey Walker proposed in 1939 that the society launch a quarterly magazine, but the EC "concluded that there is only one way open to the fraternity should it undertake the publication of a magazine; that is, to raise the annual dues of members. It was recommended that this action not be taken." The society later formed a Committee to Consider Establishment of a Pi Sigma Alpha Magazine. See *Pi Sigma Alpha Newsletter* 7.1 (January 16, 1939): 4; and *Pi Sigma Alpha Newsletter* 13.3 (March 20, 1950): 1.
- 33 W. Brooke Graves, ed. *Major Problems in State Constitutional Revision*. Chicago: Public Administration Service, 1960.
- 34 W. Brooke Graves, Don L. Bowen, and Franklin L. Burdette, "Foreword." Graves, ed. *Major Problems in State Constitutional Revision*: vii.
- 35 The "Public Administration Service has reported a sale of 1,633 copies of the Pi Sigma Alpha supported book, *Major Problems in State Constitutional Revision*," which will "bring an approximately complete return of the Society's investment." Pi Sigma Alpha National Meeting minutes, September 6, 1962. *Administrative Questions and Political Answers* was edited by former presidents Claude E. Hawley (1958-60) and Ruth Weintraub (1964-66).
- 36 Pi Sigma Alpha Special Council Meeting minutes, April 5, 1963.
- 37 Don L. Bowen, "President's Column." *Pi Sigma Alpha Newsletter* 25.1 (November 20, 1961): 1.
- 38 *Pi Sigma Alpha Newsletter* 7.1 (January 16, 1939): 6.
- 39 EC Notes on Preliminary Report of the Committee on Expansion Policy, n.d. [1954].
- 40 Ibid.
- 41 Report on The Establishment of New Chapters, September 1, 1953.
- 42 Both Spelman College and Morehouse College are affiliated with Atlanta University, which was renamed Clark Atlanta University in 1988 after merging with Clark College.

- 43 "William Madison Boyd, 1916-56," <https://footsoldier.uga.edu/william-madison-boyd/>.
- 44 Letter from Joseph R. Starr to William Boyd, December 13, 1952.
- 45 Letter from Cullen B. Gosnell to Joseph R. Starr, June 2, 1953.
- 46 Letter from Don L. Bowen to William Boyd, February 29, 1956.
- 47 Autherine Lucy was accepted into the University's library science graduate program in 1956. On her second day on campus more than a thousand people gathered to prevent her from attending classes. Her car was pelted with rocks, and she received death threats. Lucy was expelled when she and the NAACP filed charges against the University; her expulsion was annulled in 1988. See E. Culpepper Clark's *The Schoolhouse Door: Segregation's Last Stand at the University of Alabama*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.
- 48 Letter from UCLA chapter to the EC, April 15, 1956.
- 49 Baer, Jewell, and Sigelman, eds. "Introduction." *Political Science in America*: 1.
- 50 "4th Annual Chapter Activities Contest." *Pi Sigma Alpha Newsletter* 48.1 (September 1984): 1.
- 51 [51] Quoted in Robert M. Alexander, "Getting the Most from Pi Sigma Alpha Chapters: Exploring the Chapter Activity Grant Program and its Multiplier Effects." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 42.3 (July 2009): 571.
- 52 See David B. Magleby, "Pi Sigma Alpha, the Political Science Honor Society: Seventy-Five Years of Change and Growth." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 28.3 (September 1995).
- 53 Pi Sigma Alpha Executive Council Meeting Agenda Book, August 29, 2019.
- 54 The *Journal* was preceded by the *American Undergraduate Journal of Politics & Government*, which was founded by Pi Sigma Alpha members at Purdue University in 2000 with funding support from the Chapter Activity Grant program. "After publishing a few issues, Purdue's Pi Sigma Alpha chapter requested a more formal relationship with the national Pi Sigma Alpha office. The request came at just the right time as the national office was interested in sponsoring an undergraduate journal that was national in scope." See Benjamin J. Bauer, Whitney C. Ogás, Omar R. Shakir, Zoe M. Oxley, and Rosalee A. Clawson, "Learning through Publishing: *The Pi Sigma Alpha Undergraduate Journal of Politics*." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 43.2 (July 2009): 566.
- 55 Bauer, Ogás, Shakir, Oxley, and Clawson, "Learning through Publishing *The Pi Sigma Alpha Undergraduate Journal of Politics*": 567.
- 56 The complete run can be found at www.psajournal.org.
- 57 See https://issuu.com/psajournalou/docs/pi_sigma_alpha_journal_centennial_issue_2020.
- 58 See, however, "History of the Political Science Department at the University of Kentucky" (https://polisci.as.uky.edu/sites/default/files/Political_Science_Dept_History.pdf); "LSU Political Science Department History" (https://www.lsu.edu/hss/polisci/about_us/departments-history.php); and Winston W. Crouch, "A History of the Department of Political Science, University of California, Los Angeles, 1920-1987" (<https://www.polisci.ucla.edu/sites/default/files/u167/PS%2BHistory%2Bsm.pdf>).
- 59 A colleague described Patterson as "a great name in the Texas tradition – whether one means University of Texas or within the citizenry of the state and throughout the nation. To a generation of students 'Dr. Pat' expounded Constitutional Law and Constitutional development. For a generation of scholars 'Dr. Pat' also wrote textbooks, treatises, and articles to be recognized as one of the foremost scholars of our time. Officially he has just retired from teaching: his scholarly production and fishing have increased. There is not a town of any size in Texas where someone does not come forth with recollections of 'Dr. Pat' and his well-remembered classroom techniques." H. Bailey Carroll, "Texas Collection." *The Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 63.1 (July 1959): 161.
- 60 Robert Taylor Cole was inducted into Pi Sigma Alpha in 1924 and served as APSA president in 1958-59. "You will find the fine hand of Caleb Perry Patterson, mighty oaths of secrecy when we were initiated, and indirect evidence of a missionary zeal to conquer all (first in the University of Texas, and second in the name of 'Government')." Cole remembered, when asked about the society's early years. See Marsh, "Pi Sigma Alpha": 14.

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- 61 "Society Members Hold Regional Conference," *Pi Sigma Alpha Newsletter* 24:1 (November 15, 1960): 1.
- 62 "Franklin L. Burdette," *Pi Sigma Alpha Newsletter* 39:1 (October 1975): 1.
- 63 *Information Booklet of the Pi Sigma Alpha Fraternity*, 1949: 5.
- 64 Don L. Bowen, "President's Column," *Pi Sigma Alpha Newsletter* 24.4 (May 15, 1961): 2.
- 65 *Information Booklet of the Pi Sigma Alpha Fraternity*, 1959: 8.



Pi Sigma Alpha: A Centennial History

Founded in 1920, Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society, is one of the country's oldest and largest academic honor societies. Membership is open to third and fourth-year undergraduates who have excelled in their studies as well as graduate students and faculty in political science and related fields such as public policy. This centennial history explores the development of the society from its founding to the present day. It is aimed at students, parents, faculty, and anyone with an interest in the history of higher education and the social sciences.

"It is the aim of Pi Sigma Alpha to be much more than a group of chapters devoted solely to the election of honor students into membership. Each chapter is encouraged to be a working organization throughout the academic year, functioning as an integral part of the political science department in the promotion of worthwhile extracurricular activities related to public affairs. Experience on the various campuses has demonstrated the value of such an organization for the promotion of student interest in political science."

From the Information Booklet of the Pi Sigma Alpha Fraternity (1949)

