



Pi Chi Omega News

May
2016

Membership meeting at Purdue, January 2016

Message from Judy Black, President

It's been a relatively busy few months since my last message thanks to the Chairs of our Finance and Scholarship committees; Tom Wright and Stephanie Hill.

- Stephanie and her committee members, Hao Yu and Desiree Straubinger, were faced with very tough decisions to make based on the excellent group of scholarship applicants. Hopefully you have already seen the notice of the scholarship award recipients. You should be proud of your membership in an organization that does so much to help young entomologists further their education!
- At the behest of the Board, Tom has recruited 2 members to join him on the Finance committee; Da-



vid Fincannon and Larry Hanks. While their work is in the early stages they are on the path of gathering the information we will need to make decisions about our financial structure in the future. Tom is also leading our efforts to go through a legal review of our By-laws and processes.

Feel free to reach out to any of the folks I've mentioned above to thank them for their
please see Black, p. 2

2016 Pi Chi Omega Board

Judy Black – President
Judy.Black@steritech.com

Dale Baker – President-Elect
db@jteaton.com

Eugene White – Secretary
gene.white@rentokil.com

Thomas Wright – Treasurer
tom@pestproacademy.com

Kim Kelley-Tunis – Immediate-Past President
kkelley@rollins.com

Dennis Judy – Director
djudy@allgoodpc.com

David Fincannon - Director
fincannon@verizon.net

Tom Myers – Director
tomvmyers@gmail.com

Mark Sheperdigian – Director
shep@rosepest.com

Andrea Coron – Executive Dir.
office@pichiomega.org

Open – Student no vote

Black *continued from p. 1*

efforts on behalf of our membership. As an organization that relies on volunteers it is fantastic to see the commitment these members have demonstrated.

The Board will be meeting (via conference call) in May to discuss a few issues. Some are larger scale issues such as

potential investment in the development of the "50 Year Book" and some smaller scale such as how to post names and contact information of members on our website in a protected manner. If you have any ideas you would like to bring up, please email office@pichiomega.org.

I hope to see many of you at the National Conference on Urban Entomology in late May. We may be asking for volunteers to support distributing information, so if you are attending, keep an eye out for that opportunity!

Notebook: Almost Skunked

Notebook appeared in the 1960s in the magazine currently called Pest Management Professional. Members of Pi Chi Omega authored this bimonthly column, and fulfilled one of the purposes of their fraternity: "to distribute information of value to industry members."

Almost Skunked

By WILLIAM B. CLEMENTS
Clements' Pest Control,
Leesburg, FL

Every PCO gets out-of-the-ordinary calls which tax his ingenuity and knowledge. One I had involved a skunk under a house. "Stinky" had not announced his presence in "Massive" fashion, but our client knew he was there and called us. We checked and



confirmed that the skunk was crouched against the foundation wall midway between two crawl space entrance vents, one at the front and one at the rear of the house. The problem: how to remove skunk without exciting him to release scent.

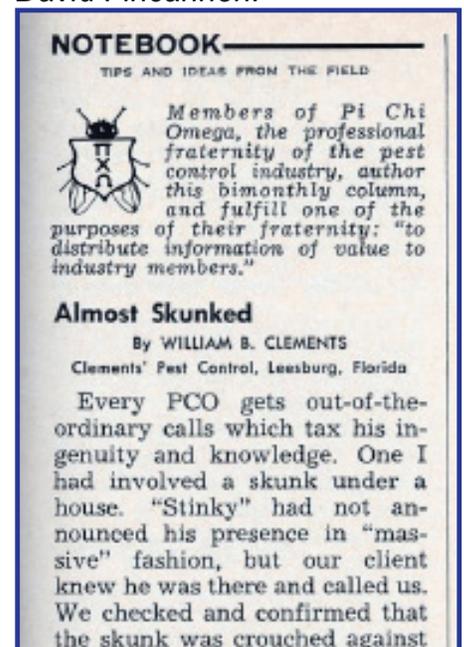
We know that skunks are basically shy animals and will tend to stay close to walls, so we first blocked all air vents to shut out light. Then we angled a 12" X 36" baffle board out from the wall at the rear-entrance vent to "funnel" the skunk to the outside. After I crawled under the house, my helper blocked the front-entrance vent behind me. Everything was dark. My helper placed a heavy canvas coal sack over the rear vent.

I turned on my flashlight and began to crawl toward the skunk. Stinky immediately retreated. He moved along the wall away from me until he reached the baffle board which made him turn out into the rear vent. He walked into the sack. My helper pulled the drawstring tight and the skunk did not release scent in the darkness of

the bag. We drowned the skunk in the lake.

When the client realized the entire job took less than 30 minutes, he, in bad grace, protested the \$10.00 charge (this was in 1937). I received payment in full when I itemized his statement: "Removing skunk from under house. . . \$4.00; Knowing how . . . \$6.00; total \$10.00.

Published in the February 1966 issue of the magazine currently called Pest Management Professional. Submitted by David Fincannon.



Copesan and Syngenta Continue Supporting Pest Management Research and Education

Copesan Services, Inc., is pleased to announce its \$10,120 contribution to two key charitable organizations providing scholarship funds and research support to the pest management industry.

The Copesan network marked its fifteenth year of giving to Pi Chi Omega and the National Pest Management Association (NPMA) Foundation for research through the annual Copesan Charity Raffle in 2016. “We are excited to contribute to both Pi Chi Omega and the NPMA Pest Management Foundation, sharing the generosity of our entire Copesan family,” said Deni Naumann, Copesan President. “It’s great to see team members from our Partner companies and industry suppliers working together and developing strong, future leaders and continuing essential scientific research and development.”

Sponsored by Syngenta, the 2016 raffle was held during Copesan’s annual conference, February 9 – 11, 2016, in Scottsdale, Arizona. This year’s event was attended by over 330 members of the Copesan Partner network and pest management suppliers who raised \$5,060 in just a few short days. Copesan matched this amount for a total donation of \$10,120 to be equally divided between Pi Chi Omega for scholarships and the NPMA Foundation for research. Stephanie Hill, Chair-Pi Chi Omega News



Judy Black (left center) receives check from Deni Naumann of Copesan Services, Inc. at NPMA’s Legislative Day in March.

man of the Pi Chi Omega Scholarship Committee shares, “This generous contribution makes my committee’s job so rewarding! We are able to help 4 students in our industry in a very meaningful way.”

Pi Chi Omega, the entomology and pest management professional fraternity, provides a number of scholarships each year; a \$3000 award and 3 \$2000 awards in 2016, to deserving entomology students at universities across the country and around the world.

The NPMA Pest Management Foundation has been providing grants for the research, development and refinement of pest management tools and techniques for over 30 years.

Copesan is an alliance of regional pest management providers united to provide quality pest solutions to commercial national accounts throughout North America.

Syngenta is a leading agriculture company helping to improve global food security by enabling millions of farmers to make better use of available resources.

Pi Chi Omega President, Judy Black, says “The continuing financial support of Copesan Services, Inc., and their network of partners helps Pi Chi Omega fulfill our purposes: to further the science of pest management and to encourage and promote the formal education of potential members of the pest management industry.”

4 Pi Chi Omega Scholarships Awarded- Supporting Studies in Entomology

Recognizing the need for college educated professionals in the field of urban and industrial pest management, Pi Chi Omega makes available scholarships each year to students majoring in urban and industrial pest management or some closely related plan of study. The object is to encourage and assist outstanding students to prepare for careers in pest management. This year, 4 scholarships were awarded: 1 for \$3,000 and 3 for \$2,000 each.

To be eligible, students must be currently enrolled full-time in undergraduate or graduate studies in urban or industrial pest management or a related field.

The award is based on: the student being in good academic standing (3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale); and on character, personality, school activities, and professional activities.

Applicants must submit a completed application form; resume or curriculum vitae; an official transcript from the school currently attending; a one page essay describing how their studies, research, and/or work experience will contribute to the urban and industrial pest management industry; two letters of recommendation; and a letter of support from a Pi Chi Omega member.

This year we had 10 very qualified students apply for the available scholarships.



Brittany DeLong Campbell, who was awarded the \$3,000 scholarship, is currently a PhD Entomology student at the University of Florida, Gainesville. Her dissertation title is "Biology and Control of Two Species of Human Parasitic Bed Bugs: *Cimex lectularius* Linnaeus and *Cimex hemipterus* Fabricius." She earned her Master's of Life Science (Entomology) from Virginia Tech where her Master's Thesis was "The Morphological and Physiological Characteristics that Contribute to Insecticide Resistance in Bed Bug (*Cimex lectularius* L.) Eggs."

Over the last four years as a Master's and PhD student in Urban Entomology, she has given six presen-

tations at scientific meetings and 16 extension presentations to pest control operators and tenants on bed bug management. She has received numerous awards and scholarships.

Ms. Campbell continues to be active in many student academic organizations and in professional societies. She has invested her commitment to these groups by holding leadership positions. She has a passion for entomology and often shares this passion with the community at events such as Bugapalooza, Bug Fest and the Florida State Fair.



Michael Fisher, one of the \$2000 award recipients, is pursuing his Ph.D. in Entomology at North Carolina State University, with a minor in Biotechnology. His dissertation subject is "Microbial diversity of the common bed bug: How the microbiome influences longevity, fitness and vector competence." He believes that studying the gut bacteria associated with insects holds tremendous potential val-



ue as an untapped resource for manipulation to control insect pests. The arsenal of chemical and non-chemical control measures for bed bugs is limited, and as insecticide resistance increases, the need for an enhanced knowledge of insect-microbe interactions is vital.



He serves as a Lieutenant Commander (Select) in the U.S. Navy; and is currently on Duty Under Instruction to pursue his studies full-time. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Iowa State University where he double-majored in Animal Ecology and Entomology. He earned an M.B.A. in Global Management from the University of Phoenix. He also holds a Master's of Science degree in Entomology from the University of Nebraska, where his thesis was "The Effects of Photoperiod on the Development Rate of Three Species of Forensically-Important Blow Flies."

Lt. Cmdr. Fisher has numerous military honors and decorations. He has been honored by the Entomological Society of America; presenting papers at their annual meeting. He reaches out to the community through his involvement in BugFest and classroom presentations to students K-12. He has numerous professional affiliations; among them are the Entomological Society of America and the Armed Forces Pest Management Board.



Angela Sierras, who also received a \$2,000 award, is currently a Ph.D. student in Entomology at North Carolina State University. Her dissertation topic is "Evaluation of Ingestible Insecticides on Bed Bugs." Her primary focus is to evaluate active ingredients that can be incorporated in a novel liquid baiting system. She received her B.S. in Zoology in 2011 from North Carolina State University, where she graduated Summa Cum Laude.

Ms. Sierras' interest in urban entomology began when she worked as a pest control technician. After seeing the effects of a client's bed bug infestation she decided to seek further study in entomology. While pursuing her advanced degree, Ms. Sierras has served as a student mentor and a teaching assistant. She has participated in BugFest, interacting and educating the public about bugs and pests. She has spoken before the N.C. Pest Management Association and presented papers at the annual meeting of the Entomological Society of America.

She is a member of both the Entomological Society of America and the Entomology Graduate Student Association.



Johnalyn Gordon is the only undergraduate student receiving a scholarship this year. She is an undergraduate student at the University of Florida. She is a Wildlife and Ecology major with a minor in Entomology and Nematology. She has completed an independent research project on a survey of 25b, or "least risk," pesticides in comparison with common dish soap (a combination of soap salts), and individual salts, including potassium laurate and sodium laurate. With guidance, she developed an experimental design to test and compare the efficacy of the products, in both immersion and spray assays.

She plans to continue her research to determine 1) whether the method of application affects efficacy of soap salt solutions; 2) whether a combination of soap salts in a solution is more effective than solutions with individual salts alone; and 3) whether soap salt solutions alone will have equal mortality to solutions containing essential oils in combination with soap salts.

She participates in outreach events to K-12 students through the U of F Entomology Club. Ms. Gordon hopes to continue her education with a MS in Entomology and ultimately, a Ph.D. May 2016

Pi Chi Omega Returns to its Roots at Purdue

The Pi Chi Omega Executive Staff attended the 80th Purdue Pest Management Conference for the first time in January. We got the blustery, blizzardy Midwest welcome to West Lafayette, IN with 9 degrees and blowing snow!



Omega members presented 13 of the 24 education sessions

provided. Our members sharing their expertise, directly achieves one of Pi Chi Omega's purposes: "to obtain and distribute information that would be of value to members of the pest management industry."

Our first morning started early with a Pi Chi Omega Board

meeting. This meeting was the first in person meeting of the newly elected board, installed at PestWorld. Chief among items discussed at this board meeting were the clearer financial picture of Pi Chi Omega and the 8 new member nominations approved by the board, and subsequently approved by the general membership. In addition, the Board will recommend at the PestWorld Membership Meeting that the membership approve forfeiture of any memberships not paid by that meeting.

At the Purdue conference, the staff was delighted to roll out the new scholarship application and procedure developed



Members Eric Smith (left) and Dick Whitman visit with Linda Whitman at the Pi Chi Omega Booth.

We left the cold outside, and received a warm welcome from the Purdue Pest Management Conference staff and Pi Chi Omega members. Pi Chi Omega staff enjoyed the opportunity of meeting lots of our members while manning the Pi Chi booth in the exhibit hall. Other Pi Chi Omega events included a Board meeting, a Hospitality Suite hosted by JT Eaton, and our General Membership Dinner Meeting. In addition to the Pi Chi Omega events, 11 Pi Chi



Gary Bennett (left) with Kim Kelley-Tunis as she receives her 25 year attendance award.

by Stephanie Hill and the Scholarship Committee. We talked to several students who were potential applicants, as well as several professors who could share the scholarship

information with their students.

The Membership Dinner Meeting held at Purdue was a great opportunity for our members to reconnect and catch up. In addition to a lot of socializing, the 35 members present attended to the business of Pi Chi Omega; approving 8 applications for membership and unanimously approving a by-laws change that extends voting rights to associate members of the fraternity!

Powell Grateful for Pi Chi Omega Scholarship



Department of Agriculture. These positions have permitted me to work with members of the professional pest control industry in numerous capacities, including initial certification training, certification testing, approval of continuing education programs, as well as with the Integrated Pest Management Program in schools and child care centers.



The fraternity's support of students and promotion of the pest control industry is very important and can make a real difference in and contribution to the world of pest management. The Pi Chi Omega Scholarship assisted me in my endeavor to earn my doctorate and pursue a career in entomology, and to expand my lifelong passion for the study of insects, and for that I will always be thankful.

Sincerely,
Peggy K. Powell, Ph. D.
West Virginia Department of
Agriculture

Pi Chi Omega Members Who Presented at the 80th Purdue Pest Management Conference

Judy Black
Jay Bruesch
Dan Collins
Bobby Corrigan
Russ Ives
Bennett Jordan
Linda Mason
Dini Miller
Adam Salyer
Mark Sheperdigian
Gene White



Shep making a presentation on spiders. Photo credit: Will Nepper

Dear Pi Chi Omega,

I was the recipient of a Pi Chi Omega Scholarship in 1988. At the time, I was a Ph.D. student at Virginia Tech in the Urban Entomology Program. During my three years in that program, I was involved in attending and presenting at numerous pest control professional recertification meetings. It was during this time that I developed a keen interest in and respect for the pest control industry.

After I received my doctorate, I was employed as Assistant Extension Specialist at West



Virginia University in Morgantown in the Pesticide Safety Education Program. I currently hold the position of Compliance Assistance/Certification Supervisor in Pesticide Regulatory Programs at the West Virginia

Pi Chi Omega

News

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Pi Chi Omega gratefully acknowledges that this newsletter is printed courtesy of:
Marty Whitford, North Coast Media - Publisher of PMP Magazine

Pest Management Industry - Coming Events

At industry events be sure to visit with Pi Chi Omega Members, Officers and Directors!

May 22 - 25, 2016 **National Conference on Urban Entomology** Albuquerque, NM

Sept.25 - 30, 2016 **International Congress of Entomology & ESA Annual Conference**
Orlando, FL

October 18 - 21, 2016 **PestWorld** Seattle, WA

Pi Chi Frat Chats - Let us know if you are going to an industry event - we'll put it on the calendar and see if we can get you together with other Pi Chi Omega members! If you meet up with other Pi Chi Omega folks, snap a picture and send it and a short description of where you met and who you saw, to office@pichiomega.org.

Have you gotten your "Pi Chi Omega Ask Me!" button? Wear it at other industry events so that you can help spread the word and get new members! If you want a button, e-mail office@pichiomega.org - we'll hook you up!



Ask Me!