

# Pi Chi Omega News



Fall/Winter - 2011

## Message from the President

Writing this letter feels like writing a letter to friends and family for the holidays where I say something about the past year and express best wishes for the new year.

First, Pi Chi Omega is in good shape. Membership is steady, right at about 450. New members seem to replace the ones we lose to attrition. Financially the fraternity is sound with the scholarship fund growing nicely each year, thanks to the generosity of many members as



**Dr. James E. Sargent**  
President

well as organizations such as Copesan. Many thanks to one and all! In my first letter I will concentrate on two major topics:

1. Membership retention and inviting potential new members to join.

Our Executive Director and Treasurer, Vern Toblan, has in the past voiced some concern about finances and potential short falls in the operating budget, which had

to be covered by taking money out of the Scholarship Fund, causing the growth of that fund to slow down. As you may know, until this year, all scholarships were paid out of the operating budget and not the Scholarship Fund, hence the nice growth of that fund over the past ten years from \$40,000 to \$157,00 dollars.

Unfortunately for the past few years, a number of members neglected to pay their dues which resulted in forfeiture of their membership. After repeated efforts to contact these members failed, the fraternity had no choice but to revoke their membership, in accordance with Pi Chi Omega Bylaws. The current year is no exception. Names of delinquent members will be published, at first internally, to give everyone a chance to contact them and encourage them to stay current with their dues. As of this date, almost 20% of members have not yet paid their dues for the current fiscal year. We must make them aware again that Pi Chi Omega is an honorary, professional fraternity, whose primary purpose is to promote education within the pest management industry.

I mentioned that we are a service fraternity at the membership breakfast meeting during

NPMA's PestWorld 2011 in New Orleans. One of the benefits of being a member in good standing is the great feeling you get when you witness the gratitude, excitement and appreciation expressed by our scholarship recipients. If you know any recent recipients of a Pi Chi Omega scholarship, ask them what it meant to them to receive this financial support from us, and if they would be willing to share their thoughts with the membership by writing a small article for a future newsletter.

Additional goals of the fraternity include providing cooperation and support to all pest management associations; and to promote the industry's dedication to the public as guardians of public health, property, and the environment. An excellent brochure is available that outlines many of the benefits and goals of the fraternity.

If you are not sure you paid your current dues, or have any other questions regarding Pi Chi Omega, I urge you to contact Vern Toblan.

2. Growth of the Fraternity.

The average age of our membership is increasing. Many have already retired from active involvement in the industry. At the same time, there are many well qualified individuals that are not aware of Pi Chi Omega and its purpose. Recently we have been getting more publicity, much of it coming from our trade magazines, which have been very generous with their support. PCT and PMP are alternating printing our newsletter for us, free of charge. Thank you, Dan Moreland and Marty Whitford.

It is up to all of us to become more active in recruiting new members. As an example, there are many interested individuals that have never been asked to join the fraternity. To become a member of Pi Chi Omega, one has to be nominated by two current members. Like me, many of you attend meetings and conferences all over the country. I am asking that you become more active and take some time at these ventures to promote Pi Chi Omega and its goals and purposes to your peers. Nomination forms are available from the Executive Director or can be downloaded from our web page [www.pichiomega.org](http://www.pichiomega.org).

### 2011-2012

#### Board Members

**Dr. James E. Sargent**  
President

**Kim Kelly-Tunis**  
President Elect

**Dr. Cisse Spragins**  
Past President

**Dr. Stuart E. Mitchell**  
Director/Secretary

**Dale A. Baker**  
Director

**Roland L. Rhodes, BCE**  
Director

**Dr. Eric Smith**  
Director

**Dr. Nicola J. Gallagher**  
Director

**Vern E. Toblan**  
Executive Director  
& Treasurer

**Daniel Moreland**  
Advisory Member  
At Large

### 2011-2012 Committee

#### Chairs

**Dr. Terry L. Whitworth**  
**Dr. Eric Smith**  
Scholarship

**Dr. Clay W. Scherer**  
Membership

**Dale A. Baker**  
Web Page

**Dr. Gerald S. Wegner**  
Awards

**Dr. Cisse Spragins**  
Nominating/Marketing

**Dr. Stuart Mitchell**  
Archives

**David W. Fincannon**  
Scholarship Fund Raising

## Message From The President - Continued

A brochure "Pi Chi Omega, the National Professional Pest Management Fraternity" is also available to help you explain what we are all about. These nomination forms must be submitted to the Executive Director 6 weeks prior to either of our two meetings - Purdue in January or Pest-World in October - for processing by the membership committee. The Purdue Pest Management Conference is only a few weeks away. It's important to know that the dates have been changed to January 9<sup>th</sup> through January 11<sup>th</sup> (three days instead of five). [Pi Chi Omega Functions are listed on page 4 of this newsletter.](#)

As in past years, we hope to have a silent auction again at this meeting. These silent auctions have contributed nicely to our scholarship fund. Should you have anything that you feel would be of interest to attendees of the conference, please bring it to the Pi Chi Omega booth

in the exhibit hall. Items such as Gerry Wegner's "Bug Clock", insect photographs, books of interest, or historical gadgets from the past of this industry will be appreciated.

I plan to make at least one request from the membership in each future "Message from the President." I had three requests in this first letter, but they aren't difficult to accomplish. In review: -

1. Pay your dues if you haven't done so already.
2. Contact one delinquent member to encourage them to pay their dues.
3. Spend some time thinking about a deserving person to nominate for membership and then sponsor them.

That's all for now.

Happy Holidays and best wishes for a better - even fantastic - New Year!

Sincerely, Jim.



### RECRUITMENT SUGGESTIONS

By **Stephanie Larrick**  
Pi Chi Omega Student Board Member

There needs to be a clear benefit for students. Students today need extrinsic motivation to do or join things. What can the fraternity offer the students? Is there a clear benefit for them?

- Is there a way to set-up a mentor or shadowing program with *Pi Chi Omega* members and students?

What are the aims and purposes of *Pi Chi Omega* can draw students?

*Pi Chi Omega* is not very well known in the student (undergraduate and graduate) community. The fraternity needs better exposure.

- Be active at the Entomological Society of America meetings. That is the meeting where most students attend. There needs to be something more than flyers about the scholarship put up. A real presence is needed.
- If the opportunity is available, it might be nice for *Pi Chi Omega* to sponsor one of the student paper competitions. Possibly the urban pest category.
- Is there a better way for those members in academia and student advisers to better get the scholarship application out? Are the list serves for the student advisers up to date?
- For the scholarship, the student needs a *Pi Chi Omega* sponsor. How can students find a sponsor if their faculty advisor is not one? Is there a way to make it known as to how to find a sponsor?

The fraternity needs to decide who they want to target student wise. For example, the scholarship application first mentions that graduate students can apply for the scholarship at the bottom of the description.

- How many schools have a pest control program or tract? Are the guidelines of the scholarship too narrow? The scholarship form stresses a program that is in the technical aspects of urban pest control. What about those students that are doing molecular work as their thesis? Their results can tell us a lot about a pest.

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS



Dr. Roger Gold



William E. Blasingame

Inducted in the PMP Hall of Fame. They join a most illustrious group of 64 Legends of the Industry. More information can be found in the October 2011 issue of Pest Management Professional Magazine.



The 2011 Class of the Crown Leadership Awards sponsored by Syngenta and Pest Control Technology Magazine includes six members of Pi Chi Omega. They are: Judy Black, Chris Christensen, Chris Donaghy, Charles Wright, Phil "Doc" Nichols, and Gerry Wegner. Read about them in the October supplement to the PCT Magazine.

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**Marty Whitford**  
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**This & That From Your Executive Director**

First and foremost I thank the board of directors and membership for the Achievement Award bestowed upon me at the New Orleans Membership Breakfast Meeting. This was totally unexpected and is greatly appreciated. I hope to give Pi Chi Omega another ten years of service.

Many of the points I wanted to mention in this article are covered in our new president's letter to you. I want to use this space for the future of Pi Chi Omega. To insure that the fraternity continues to thrive and grow, we all must make an effort to recruit new members. Thanks to the industry's two professional magazines the publicity for a membership drive is well under way. The theme for this drive is **Pi Chi Omega Wants You!** Calendars and pens



featuring this theme were handed out at our booth in New Orleans and just recently in New York at the "Bug-Off" Annual Seminar, where Andy Linares graciously donated display space to Pi Chi Omega.

As a point of interest, bugs grow big in the "Big Apple" as shown in the photo of yours truly with a New York Bedbug! Approximately 500 PMP's attended this one day event. Thanks Andy!



PestWorld 2011 in New Orleans was exiting. NPMA each year donates exhibit space and facilities for our Board meeting and membership breakfast meeting to Pi Chi Omega. This is always greatly appreciated. Thanks NPMA!

Here are some highlights of our participation at PestWorld 2011.



**Welcome New Members**

**Active Membership:**

- Dr. Jody Gangloff-Kaufman, Cornell University
- Dr. Michael E. Scharf, Purdue University
- Dr. Hao Yu, Guardian Pest Solutions, Inc., St. Paul, MN

**Associate Membership:**

- Nicole Zickefoose, J.T. Eaton Co. Inc. Twinsburg, OH
- Craig Martelle, J.T. Eaton Co. Inc. Twinsburg, OH

**Welcome New Officers**

**Board of Directors:**

- Dr. Stuart E. Mitchell, Secretary
- Dr. Eric Smith, Director
- Dr. Nicola Gallagher, Director
- Kim Kelly-Tunis, President Elect



President, Dr Cisse Spragins passes the official gavel to incoming president, Dr. James Sargent.

Thanks go to retired Directors ***Debi Logue*** and ***Richard Berman*** for their valued contribution to the fraternity for their past two years service.



**Dr. Stuart Mitchell**  
Pi Chi Omega  
Director & Secretary

Do your clients unknowingly suffer from cimicosis? As a blood feeding parasite, the bedbug has re-emerged as a medically significant issue. Dr. Stuart Mitchell has written an informative article on this subject, under the title " Pest M.D." pages 64/65 of the November Issue of PMP Magazine. An abstract of a clinical study by Dr. Mitchell is also available. For copies please contact Vern Toblan at [vermtoblan@verizon.net](mailto:vermtoblan@verizon.net)

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**PURDUE CONFERENCE**

**January 9 thru 11, 2012**

**Pi Chi Omega Functions**

**Sunday, January 8th:**

**Board of Directors Meeting - 6:00 p.m. until done  
Room 112, Purdue Memorial Union Building**

**Tuesday, January 10th:**

**Membership Dinner Meeting - 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
West Faculty Lounge, Memorial Union Building**

**Cost of dinner: \$35.00/person to be paid at the door. Cash, check or credit card accepted.**

**Guests Welcome**

**Pi Chi Omega Web Page: <http://www.pichiomega.org>**