

Pi Chi Omega News



Summer 2010

Message from the President

Well, at the time of the last one of these letters, it was horrendously cold and snowy (the February version of the letter, not the April version on the website!). Now we have heat advisories. It's a little intense, but I'll take the heat any day – it's better for the bugs! It may seem hard to believe, but June marked the 60th anniversary of our fraternity. It's quite amazing to contemplate the progress we've made as an industry over this time period. And we shouldn't forget the contributions of those that went before us. As Isaac Newton said "we are standing on the shoulders of giants", (although apparently this was first stated by Bernard of Chartres in the 12th century). It is an important function of Pi Chi Omega to preserve this sense of history so we will continue to understand where we've been. A number of members have invested a great deal of time in the ongoing project of charting and archiving our history to date, and for that we are grateful. Other members who are interested in assisting in this regard, should please contact Kim Kelley-Tunis, Stuart Mitchell or anyone on the board.



Dr. Cisse Spragins
President Pi Chi Omega

While it is important to remember our past, we also need to think about our future. And to insure that, we need to take action now. We've had good dialogue on the need to recruit new members, due to the increasing average age of our membership. We've produced some marketing materials in the form of some power point slides that those of us who give presentations can use to bring awareness to the fraternity. This was sent out attached to an E-Update but still needs to be put on the website. We've also created a Facebook page, but so far it has had little activity and only has 20 members to date. We've also put the application materials in an easily downloadable form on the website. To help members promote the scholarship, we created a "Money Available" scholarship poster and attached it as a PDF file to an E-Update. This also still needs to be put on the website. All of these tools can help facilitate the promotion of the fraternity and what we

do, but the most important thing we can do to recruit new members is to simply ask someone to join. Imagine if we each committed to bringing in one new member in the next year. We'd probably need to ask 2, 3 or 4 people to get one to apply, but just think, we could double our membership. And its not just numbers on a page and dues payments we would gain, but new people to bring in new life and new ideas (no offense intended for us old folks, of course!).

For the Facebook page to get traffic, something needs to happen there. Perhaps we could create an "ask the entomologist" feature where PMPs could ask technical questions and our (esteemed) membership could answer them. There are quite a few PMPs on Facebook now. If they begin to see the page as a resource, then they are more likely to be interested in joining the fraternity. I know that PCT's blog has quite lively discussions among PMPs, and it would be nice to see the Pi Chi Facebook page similarly lively. Please join the page if you haven't and invite your PMP friends to the page, whether they are Pi Chi members or not. Thanks!

One issue that was discussed to try to bring in younger people, particularly students, was to create a student seat (non-voting) on the board. For reasons of practicality, this seat would likely be filled by different students at different meetings, since there are not likely any students who consistently attend both the Purdue Conference and the NPMA National Convention each year. This would at least give us some perspective and input, and student involvement. The board is hashing out the by-laws changes required and will be reporting at the next membership meeting. We have also made progress on the scholarship front and have several individuals promoting "named" Pi Chi Omega scholarships as a means to creating more interest to build the scholarship fund.

I look forward to seeing you all in sunny Hawaii and to hearing about the new members you have recruited! Come to think of it, I'd better get busy myself...!

Cisse W. Spragins, Ph.D.

2010 Board Members

Dr. Cisse Spragins
President

Dr. James E. Sargent
President Elect

Dr. Gerry Wegner
Past President

Kim Kelley-Tunis
Director/Secretary

Dr. Clay W. Scherer
Director

Jeffrey A. Weier, RS, BCE
Director

Debra L. Logue
Director

Richard Berman, BCE
Director

Vern E. Toblan
Executive Director
& Treasurer

2010 Committee Chairs

Dr. Terry L. Whitworth
Scholarship

Dr. Clay W. Scherer
Membership

Dr. Eric Smith
By-Laws

Dale A. Baker
Web Page

Dr. Gerald S. Wegner
Nominating

Mark D. Sheperdigian
Awards

Dr. James E. Sargent
Future Research Ideas

Dr. Cisse Spragins
Marketing

Dr. Stuart Mitchell
Archives

David W. Fincannon
Scholarship Fund Raising

This & That From Your Executive Director

It saddens me to have to report that my predecessor, Dr. William Jackson, passed away on July 15, 2010. Bill was a good friend and mentor and certainly instrumental in recruiting me to be his successor. He was Executive Director of the fraternity for 20 years, 1980 to 2000.

By now you should all have received the dues statement for the new fiscal year. To those of you that have already paid, thank you very much! If you have not had a chance to pay your dues as yet, please get the statement out from the bottom of the pile and process it at your

earliest convenience. If I seem paranoid about this, there is a good reason. The past fiscal year was a disaster as far as collecting dues is concerned. 20% of members did not pay their dues. This amounted to a shortfall of \$4,585.00, or the funds for two of our scholarships.

Please note the proposed bylaws changes and be prepared to vote at the membership breakfast meeting in October. I am looking forward to seeing many of you in Hawaii!

Pi Chi Omega Constitution & Bylaws, proposed changes

The Bylaws Committee Chair, Eric Smith, has been asked by the Board to draft the necessary changes to the Bylaws to create the position of student member (non-voting) to the Board.

It is our intention to have this submitted to the membership for approval at the next NPMA meeting in Honolulu, HI, this fall. The proposed changes are to the Bylaws are:

1. ARTICLE IV, Section 1. (CHANGES)

The management of the affairs of the Fraternity shall be vested in the Board of Directors, which shall consist of nine 10 members, elected or appointed by the membership, or the board, or the Executive Director as provided by these Bylaws. The Board shall consist of the President, President-Elect, Secretary, Executive Director/Treasurer (no vote), the immediate Past President, and four Active or Associate Members, and one student member (no vote).

2. ARTICLE IV, Section 7. (NEW)

The 10th member of the Board of Directors shall be a non-voting student member.

This person must be a student member of Pi Chi Omega in good standing and must attend the designated Pi Chi Omega meeting for which they are appointed. They shall be appointed by the Executive Director at least 60 days prior to the designated meeting they are to attend.

3. ARTICLE V, Section 4. (NEW)

The Executive Director shall appoint the non-voting student member of the Board of Directors as provided by these Bylaws.

Please consider these changes and be prepared for discussions and a subsequent vote at our scheduled meeting in October in conjunction with the NPMA conference in Honolulu, HI.

If you cannot attend the meeting, please feel free to forward any comments via phone, fax or e-mail to the Executive Director.

IN MEMORIAM

***Harry L. Bain
Bain Pest Control Services***

George E. Ross



***Dr. William Jackson
Pi Chi Omega Executive Director
1980 thru 2000***

2010 Scholarship Recipients



Hamilton R. Allen, Ph.D. Student
Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA

Hamilton's research projects deal with the evaluation of the efficacy of two broadcast fire ant control products, as well as a combination of the two products. Efficacy of the broadcast treatments was compared to individual mound treatment methods. Preliminary results show that the combination broadcast treatment works faster and provides longer residual control of fire ant colonies compared to the individual mound treatment. Because broadcast products have never been used in Virginia, effects of these products on non-target ant species was also evaluated.

In addition, Hamilton conducted a genetic study to assess the social form of fire ant colonies in Virginia. Some of his findings will be published in a future newsletter.



Stephanie K. Larrick, Ph.D. Student
University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

Super colony ants pose a great threat to the pest control industry. A super colony is defined as a unicolony that is polygygnus (multiple queens), polydomous (multiple nest entrances), and workers do not show any aggression between nests. Caribbean crazy ants (CCA) are exotic, super colony ants that were introduced into Florida and the United States in the 1950's from the Antilles Islands. Caribbean crazy ants invade structures by the thousands foraging for food, but do not harm the structure or bite. Little is known about the biology and special distribution of CCA.

Stephanie is examining the nest structure and movement of brood from one nest to another. Also, she is using global positioning systems, global information systems, and geo-statics to determine the special distribution and density of CCA on urban parcels which will help design more adequate control measures for this pest ant.



Mark H. Goodman, Ph.D. Student
University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

The bed bug, *Cimex lectularius*, has become a serious problem as a pest in the United States and around the world. It has recently been reported to be the most difficult pest to manage. It has been found to be resistant to some pesticides, can live for long times without feeding, and has high reproductive potential.

Mark's research deals with their biology by examining the microbial symbionts that live in the bugs, looking at the specific roles they play and host symbiont interactions. He is studying their mode of transmission, including the implication of traumatic insemination which is the reproductive strategy used by bed bugs and their relatives. Symbiotic bacteria are a key for control of many insect disease vectors, and could play a role in managing bed bugs as well.



Justin George, Ph.D. Student
Penn State University, University Park, PA

The primary objective of Justin's research is to compare the ORN classes and responses of different mosquito species and determine the similarity in their ORN profiles.

The second objective is to compare the ORN responses of disease-vectoring mosquitoes (eg. Malaria infected mosquitoes) to those of disease free mosquitoes, which will help to understand the chemical cues that mosquito vectors use for host finding and inflicting the disease.

Ultimately this research aims to provide a better understanding of ORN classes in mosquitoes and to develop a commercial product that can work as a behavior modifier in mosquitoes which in turn will help to control these disease vectors.

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PESTWORLD 2010
Hilton Hawaiian Village Resort & Convention Center—Honolulu, Hawaii
October 20—23, 2010



Board of Directors Meeting

Wed. Oct. 20, 2010 in South Pacific 1, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm. All members welcome.
No food or beverage service!

Membership Breakfast Meeting

Fri. October 22, 2010 in South Pacific 1&2, 6:00 am – 7:15 am
Cost \$35.00 per person to be paid in advance

Pi Chi Omega Booth: Booth #719 in Exhibit Hall. Please stop by!

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