



Phi Sigma Tau National Alumni Chapter



Bulletin #45

October, 2012

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2011-2012 Financial Report

(Category)	(Dollars)	(Percent)
INCOME		
Initiation fees	31,750.00	95.76
Dialogue subscriptions	184.50	0.56
NAC dues	290.00	0.88
Charter fees	700.00	2.11
Gifts	5.00	0.01
Retained Earnings	123,120.00	(not included)
Other income	225.00	0.68
Total	156,274.50	100.00
EXPENSES		
Supplies	186.99	0.92
Printing costs	1,820.50	8.95
Postage	2,883.13	14.18
Dialogue printing	13,682.37	67.28
ACHS dues/expenses	844.00	4.15
Website	224.25	1.10
Other expenses	696.00	3.42
Total	20,337.24	100.00

Retained Earnings \$ 135,937.26

The last school year was a very good year for Phi Sigma Tau. For the second year in a row, we initiated our second largest number of new members. In addition, for the first year, the total pages in one volume (two issues) of *Dialogue* exceeded 200 pages. Since we have only a single page of advertising in each issue, the majority of the space was dedicated to student publications, both articles and book reviews. By now you may have received a couple of issues with our new binding, and that new binding format has given our journal a much more professional look as well as provided more space for the student work. So, this has been a good year for Phi Sigma Tau.

Our expenses for the year were nearly 25% more than the preceding year's expenses. A significant part of the increase was the result of the higher journal costs; a larger journal costs more in printing and postage. But since one of the main aims of Phi Sigma Tau is to provide student publication opportunities, the Executive Council is delighted to have increased this opportunity. The actual percentage of our budget dedicated to the journal decreased very slightly

but remains a bit over two-thirds of the total. Other costs vary from year to year because I try to buy in bulk where possible and often buy multi-year quantities.

We had a very good year for new members in 2010-2011 (a 17% increase over the preceding year), but last year (2011-2012) was even stronger (a 7% increase over the preceding year). Consequently, our income was up. Thus, Phi Sigma Tau remains financially solid and able to meet all its obligations. Since we remain a volunteer organization, we have no retirement or pension obligations, just the current operating expenses.

Our **Annual Report for 2011-2012** is available as an Adobe Acrobat email attachment to those who would like to receive the report. If you wish a copy of that report, please contact the Executive Secretary.

Yours cordially,

David E. Gibson
Executive Secretary
david.gibson@pepperdine.edu

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News of the Society

We initiated 1,270 new members last year; the previous record was 1,293 several years ago. Though our new memberships declined for several years in a row, the past two years have seen dramatic increases. In addition, last year we chartered chapters at six schools. New chapters were established at Hampden-Sydney College, Clarke University, Rhodes College, Brooklyn College (CUNY), Ave Maria University, and William Paterson University. This year, we have already chartered chapters at The College of New Jersey and Rowan University; shortly, we will also have a chapter at Nazarene College. Several other schools have expressed interest in chapters of Phi Sigma Tau. Though we could solicit donations (We are a 501(c)3 organization.), we do not do so, nor do we solicit new chapters; our chapter growth is driven by student and faculty interest in the Society.

We have had a few changes on our Executive Council in the past year. Long-time Council Vice-President Irmgard Scherer retired from the Council at the end of the fiscal year in June. Earlier in the year, we had appointed two new Adjunct Council members, Dr. Charlie Huenemann and Dr. Dawn Hutchinson. Dr. Anne Wiles agreed to step into the position of Vice-President of the Council, and Dr.

Huenemann became an Area Representative for the Council.

With your copy of the October 2012 issue of *Dialogue*, I have included the most recent Newsletter as well as this Alumni Chapter Bulletin. The new version of the *PST Manual* is available in Adobe format. NAC members who wish to receive the PST Manual as an email attachment should drop me a brief email message ("send Manual" is fine).

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From Josh Penrod

I recently had the chance to re-connect with my former undergraduate advisor and philosophy professor from Washington and Jefferson College, John R. Jacobson (Jake). Retired now and living in North Carolina, I was pleased to see Jake as vibrant and passionate about thought, philosophy, and life as he was when I was a rather errant, perhaps rebellious, undergrad. Jake took many students like myself under his wing and nurtured the creative side of each of us. Speaking for myself, it took a bit of time for that seed to take root, but I think he was glad to see that it eventually turned out all right in my case.

My career has taken a few strange turns from time to time since graduating from Washington and Jefferson in 1996. I've been through law school, am a licensed attorney, and also received an LL.M., an M.P.H., and an M.B.A. I've traveled to nearly every state in the U.S. and many different countries, as my job, representing the manufacturers of plasma protein therapies, has members and commercial interests virtually everywhere. I chose to major in philosophy when in college because, to me, it was the best discipline for being yourself. As time wore on, I wasn't sure about the immediate and so-called practical applications of it, and, of course, my undergraduate record was not as good as it should have been. It took me a while to get serious about learning, but I eventually got there.

For me, philosophy was a refuge that will walk with me throughout my life and my career. I'm now taking more coursework at Virginia Tech, in Science and Technology Studies, and I hope to make this a doctoral path. It's taken me quite a while to get there but I wouldn't trade the experiences that I've had, as it shows at least some of the creative turns that life can take. Philosophy helped prepare me for that, and the best guide I've had was my advisor then, as now. Thanks to Aristotle et al., but more especially to Jake, I'm looking forward to the next steps that come my way.

Josh Penrod, BA, Philosophy and History, Washington and Jefferson College, 1996

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NAC Membership

Membership in the National Alumni Chapter continues to be five dollars per year; we have no plans to increase that, even though there are additional mailing expenses for the larger issues of our journal. Alumni Chapter members will receive *Dialogue* for one year as well as Newsletters and the occasional NAC Bulletin. I will be able to contact you by email if you have given me your email address. However, I do not know when you move or change email addresses. Please let me know if your street address or email address changes so that I can update the PST files. I would like to be able to keep in contact with you. If you need to change an address, please feel free to contact me by email. **The NAC membership database (including email listings) is not given or sold to any other organization (educational or commercial).**

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PST Executive Council Members

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