Overview

This newsletter provides members of the Villanova University Chapter of Pi Alpha Alpha important information regarding the development and progress of the Chapter. In lieu of meeting minutes, this newsletter is posted tri-annually (September, June, January) to detail the communications about relevant topics discussed and decisions made by the Chapter’s officers.

Spring Networking/Career Panel

On March 24, the Villanova University PAA Chapter hosted its Spring Career and Networking Event, the second annual event for the 2010–2011 academic year. The event featured three panelists from different career sectors relevant to MPA students: John Farrell (City Government); Danielle Gadson–Johnson (Nonprofit); Rachel Gold (State Government).

The panelists first explored the motivation for and vocational calling to public service and then provided practical and helpful networking advice for the current MPA students attending the event. A lively “Q–and–A” period generated additional tips concerning topics of particular interest to MPA students, ranging from job searches to utilizing skills obtained during and after completing the MPA program.

The final component of the event allowed the students to put all of the advice and tips to good use during an open networking session including panelists, participating alumni, MPA faculty, and students. Before concluding, the Chapter presented the panelists a token of its members’ gratitude for providing great information and tips as well as contributing their valuable time.
On May 12th, the Villanova University Chapter of PAA held its 2nd annual Induction Ceremony. The event concluded this year’s events and marks the beginning of planning for next year’s calendar.

This ceremony was particularly special as it marked the completion of the Chapter’s inaugural year. Dr. Palus’ introduction and Dr. Wheeland’s keynote address highlighted this past year’s many successes as well as hopes for the Chapter as it embarks upon its future. The Chapter inducted 24 new members, including 13 MPA alumni from recent years who met the stringent qualifications of 18 credits and minimum of 3.8 GPA. This Induction Ceremony provided an appropriate capstone event to celebrate the Chapter’s inaugural year at Villanova University!

Villanova University Chapter of Pi Alpha Alpha
Annual Induction Ceremony—Class of 2011

Back Row: Christine Volkay-Hilditch; Prof. Robert Stokes; Prof. Catherine Wilson; Christopher C. Bashore; Erin M. Kuchar; Jennifer E. McCrindle; Christena Hamilton; Prof. Christine Palus (MPA Coordinator); Donald D. Delamater; James J. Kelly III; Ryan C. Heffernan. Front Row: Prof. Craig Wheeland; Michael J. Lapinski; Khloe C. Williams; Kathleen E. Herron; Fr. Richard Jacobs, OSA (Chapter Advisor); Rachel Gold. Not Present: Kathleen L. Cullen; Kevin M. Huse; Tara Kleppinger; Nicholas A. Cecconi; Pamela A. Gural-Bear; Danielle M. Johnson; Amy T. Layman; Carolyn McCready; Brian J. McLaughlin; Meredith Fretz Merino; Jamie R. Orose; Natalie Lyons Silver.

VU–PAA Website

A link to the PAA webpage is available on the MPA website. This website provides information and important details concerning Pi Alpha Alpha events and development, as well as links to outside resources for members, faculty, and visitors. The website is under continued development; however, it can now be accessed directly through the Villanova MPA website.

http://www.villanova.edu/artsci/psc/graduate/mpa/PAA