Letter From The Megas Prytanis

First, let me extend thanks on behalf of all our hosts in Indiana for a fine convention last March. Also, I will take this opportunity to express my gratitude to you for voting me Megas Prytanis of Eta Sigma Phi. I shall make every effort to maintain and improve the already high standards of the fraternity.

Eta Sigma Phi has truly a gift for our modern world in that it pays tribute not to the past but to the timeless. In the midst of a groping and neurotic world it is refreshing to note an organization whose members may take refuge in the wisdom handed down to us by the progenitors of our culture. Classical values need not perish in this century of crisis; indeed, they must not. It is the work of our members to cultivate and spread the courage, craft and humor of the timeless heroes of antiquity. Moreover, the classics must never become to us a sterile exercise in academic sophistry or a useless acquisition of unmeaning fact; rather they must be something to live, an attitude which results in and becomes action. Eta Sigma Phi will fail its primary mission if its members fail to LIVE by its wisdom.

(Continued on page 5)
Meet Your National Officers

At the thirty-fourth National Convention that met at the University of Indiana on March 24, the delegates present elected the new national officers to serve this year.

Rick Kemmer of Beta Sigma Chapter at Marquette University was elected to serve as Megas Prytanis. Rick was initiated into Beta Sigma Chapter during his freshman year and served as Prytanis of that Chapter last year. He is enrolled in the liberal arts schedule with plans for secondary teaching. He is a native of Milwaukee and graduated from the Marquette High School with an honor diploma. He holds membership in Sigma Sigma Epsilon and is vice-president of Delta Sigma Rho, the Honorary Debate Society, in addition to having served on the University Debate Team for his first two years of college.

Serving you as Megas Hyparchos is Miss Peggy Hammen of Beta Omicron Chapter at St. Mary College. Peggy, who has two younger brothers, was also born in Milwaukee, but she has spent most of her life in Shorewood. Peggy had four years of Latin in high school and states that her interest in Latin came under the influence of her teacher Miss Edith Atchison. She graduates this June from Mt. Mary College with a Latin and English major. Beta Omicron Chapter has used her services both as secretary and as a delegate to last year's convention. The National Convention the year before which met in Milwaukee was part of her responsibility. In addition to her literary pursuits she is interested in out-door sports and is especially interested in tennis, skiing, and swimming.

Miss Judy Thompson of Theta Chapter of Indiana University was elected Megas Grammateus. Miss Thompson has been a member of the Chapter since her first year in college and has been an officer for the past two years. She was Co-Chairman of the thirty-fourth National Convention. This year in addition to the fraternal obligations she is practice teaching in Bloomington. She has received three Latin scholarships from her state and plans to teach in Indiana for a year before starting to work on her M.A. Degree. Part of this work she hopes will be in Rome. Her campus activities include a Seminar for Campus Leaders under the direction of the Dean of Students, Rush Chairman for Delta Delta Delta, and a member of Panhellenic Executive Council, the Union Board of Directors, and Mortar Board. Judy's home is near Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Sessions Polk of Gamma Tau Chapter at Mississippi College is Megas Chrysophylax. He is a graduate of Prentiss High School at Prentiss, Mississippi. While in high school he was in student government and in his senior year was elected president of his class. Sessions is a senior at Mississippi College and has been a member of Gamma Tau for three years. He is a Latin major and plans to enter one of the Southern Baptist Seminaries after this year. Upon graduation from the Seminary he plans to enter the field of Religious Education.

These are the officers your delegates chose for the coming year. They cannot serve to any extent unless the membership of the fraternity will cooperate with them.

Scholarship Announcement

Dr. William H. Willis, Chairman of the Scholarship Committee for Study in Rome or Greece in the summer of 1963 has recently sent out to all the chapters through the National Office information on the scholarship this year. Those eligible to apply for the scholarship as stated in the letter from Mr. Willis are those who have recently received a Bachelor of Arts Degree since January 1, 1958 or shall have received it by June 1963 and who have not received a Doctor's Degree. Applications must be submitted to Professor William H. Willis, Department of Classics, University of Mississippi, University, Mississippi no later than January 31, 1963. The winner will be announced by a committee for the two scholarships around March 1 of next year.

The Scholarship to the American Academy in Rome will have a value of $450, carrying a stipend of $350 granted by the Trustees of the Academy. The Scholarship to the American School of Classical Studies at Athens will have a value of $550, and carry a stipend of $300 granted by the Trustees of Eta Sigma Phi and remission of the $250 tuition fee by grant of the School. Six semester hours of credit may be earned at each summer session, which is applicable toward an advanced degree in classics in most graduate schools.
Our Newest Chapter:
Delta Gamma

Top row, left to right, Main entrance to campus, Liberal Arts Building. Bottom row, left to right, portion of present Library, Fine Arts Building.
Letter From Mr. Butts

It is the feeling of your Acting Executive Secretary that you might be interested in a portion of a letter which I received recently from Mr. Butts. He wrote from the American School of Classical Studies in Athens. "It is very pleasant in Athens now except when it rains, and then it is cold and damp. The city has changed so much since my last visit that it is difficult to realize that it could be the same. It has become a very modern city with frightening traffic; but surprisingly enough the Athenians do obey the traffic signals. There are many new buildings, especially hotels, and more are being built. The shops are very modern and also expensive. There is a plan to make tourism the first industry and it appears that there is some success along this line, since there are so many tourists that it is difficult to see the sights and study in the museums.

We spent four days in Delos last week and we go to Delphi and Central Greece on Friday. I went to Delphi and Eleusis today. We shall be away from Athens more than in town from now on.

Sites which were especially rewarding for me on my trip to Athens were Persepolis, Palmyra, Petra, Bergum, Troy, and Istanbul. The remains on the platform at Persepolis are spectacular; Palmyra almost startles one as its avenues of columns appear in the desert; the colors and rock, hewn buildings at Petra have to be seen to be believed (and this is true also of the people in India); Pergamum high on the hill and coming down into the valley is majestic; and Troy is truly wind-swept but rewarding. Istanbul, especially St. Sophia, grows on one and I want to go back there again before I return if possible.

I hope that all is well with Eta Sigma Phi and please give my regards to the chapters. H. R. Butts, Acting Executive Secretary.

I would like to thank the new National officers and the chapters for the willingness they have shown in Eta Sigma Phi plans for the year. I hope that we will be able to work together to accomplish our tasks for this year in the fraternity's work. They have made my work a pleasure in Eta Sigma Phi as your Acting Executive Secretary.

If I can be of any help to you until Dr. Butts returns please feel free to call on me. Thomas T. Boswell—Acting Executive Secretary.
Why The Classics?

Ed. Note: The following paper was recently read before a meeting of Gamma Tau Chapter. It is reprinted here with a few changes in the hopes that it will be of benefit to the other chapters of the fraternity:

Often times as students of the Classics and especially for those who have chosen to major in the Classics you are asked the question, “Why?” Following this line of procedure I would like to ask you as students for your reasons for studying a Classical language at the very least or for majoring in one at the very most.

The most common answer one can hear is that most colleges require two years of foreign language for a degree. But why Latin or Greek? As you must know by this time your college offers other languages, to mention a few, French, German, Spanish, etc., all of which are spoken today. It would seem much more sensible to all concerned to study a language which could be of some use outside the ivy walls of a classroom. There are no Romans or Greeks with whom you can converse. Since you can satisfy the college language requirements by taking one of the modern languages, why did you choose the Classics?

Another answer that might be given and which applies to many of you is that you began the study of Latin in high school and wished to continue in college.

Some of you are classics majors and you have dedicated your life to the propagation of the Latin language. Have you not heard and been fortunate enough to read in our modern language journals that the study of Latin in the high schools and colleges is in a period of great decline and that within a few short years there will be no demand for classical scholars, except in the most backward and tenacious institutions of higher learning? Unfortunately for these journals the enrollment over the nation and the demand for qualified teachers do not bear out this prediction. Throughout many years there have always been those who did not appreciate the value of the Classics and who have always been willing to announce with pride their departure from the world. I am happy to relate that there still seems to be life in the old boy and some of us feel that he will be around for quite some time.

Since all of you are members of Eta Sigma Phi and you were chosen as members by virtue of your excellence in the field of the Classics you must have some interest in the subject. May I then suggest to you a few reasons for this interest? Many of the antagonists toward the study of the Classics will agree with us that Greece and Rome produced much great literature. They hastily add, though, that learning to read these masterpieces in the original is a long and tedious process which can be avoided simply by going to any competent book store and buying any one of the numerous excellent translations available. I admit that many of these are excellent and deserve of themselves to stand as great pieces of literature, but they are translations. No translation that I have ever read has caught the majesty of Vergil, the beauty of Homer, the sharp biting comments of Catullus, the wonderful feeling of Horace, or the significance which is so well hidden in the words of many of the writers. The person who reads these great authors only in translation fails to see any of these qualities. Our souls might well be stirred by the line in Vergil which reads “an icy tremor runs through the hard bones of the Trojan.” But when we inspect the text we find a great significance in word order. The first and last words of the clause are respectively gelidus and tremor. Vergil has surrounded the entire clause with this “icy fear” indicating much more by his unlimited word order than any one translator can do with English. No translation of any work, in any language, can give the reader the intended feeling of the original.

Another argument that I have heard used against the study of the Classics is that there is nothing being written in these languages today. In simpler terms, we might say they are dead languages. Very few people on the face of the earth make any attempt to speak either Latin or Classical Greek, and they certainly cannot be understood on the whole. The Latin or Classical Greek that we study today has undergone no changes in over fifteen hundred years and I am sure that it is rather difficult to carry on a modern conversation in either.

I do not intend to argue with you the sad and trite phrases which we hear offered as reasons for the study of Latin and Greek. My main argument as the reason one should study the Classics is the reason most of us study any language—i.e., to learn the ideas of a nation in the tongue in which these ideas were written. Those who teach modern language place great stress on the fact that their students are taught how to speak the languages. Well, I have heard some of these two year marvels attempting to carry on conversations in Europe, and if these are the products I wonder where their teachers are hiding. Most of them, after two years of study, can still do little more than speak the pat phrases which most people know and that could have been learned in a little over a week’s time. The purpose of any language is to convey ideas whether it be oral or written. The value of any language lies not primarily in its being spoken at the present time as much as in whether or not it has something of value to give us today. When I read the writings of those “barbarians” who lived 2000 years ago without the marvelous inventions that make us so learned, I cannot help but be amazed at how men so unblessed could have been so well informed. It is amazing that the same problems that confronted the Greeks and the Romans are also confronting us today. It further is comforting to see that the consolations that they found for their problems will still work for us today. These musty manuscripts of that long ago yesterday have just as much to offer us today as they had the day they were written. Latin and Greek, therefore, can still communicate ideas. Latin and Greek, therefore, are still of inestimable value.

There are many other arguments which

LETTER FROM PRYTANIS

(Continued from page 1)

Next spring the national convention will be held in Baltimore. This meeting is most important for the exchange of ideas and the improvement of our chapters. I cannot emphasize too highly the enjoyable experiences that recent conventions have afforded all who attended them. Please begin preparing delegations now for this important meeting; it is at any time. May this be a good year, come personally acquainted.

In closing let me say that I will work closely with Professor Boswell in the coming semester. I welcome your letters at any time. May this be a good year, and I hope to meet you all in March.

Rick Kemmer, Megas Prytanis

INSTALLATION

(Continued from page 1)

Union Building and a new Library.

Officers of Delta Gamma Chapter are Marianna Feeley, Prytanis Carol Swartz, Hyparchos; Mary Michele Brady, Grammateus; and Cathy Sullivan, Chrysophylax.

NUNTIUS

(Continued from page 1)

...
WHY THE CLASSICS—

(Collected from page 5)

one could give for the study of the Classics, but let us now come to the main point of this paper. For some reason or another all of you have been led into the field of the Classics and some with the intention of making it your life's work. Since you are students of the Classics you must believe that it has some value other than just the mere earning of college credit. I can think of nothing more horrible than sitting for hour after hour poring over pages of Latin or Greek just for college credit. Since you must then be a believer, you have certain responsibilities. Many schools, both secondary and above, throughout the nation cry in vain each year for those who are qualified to teach the Classics. Many schools do not offer work in this field not because they don't want to do so but because they cannot find anyone to fill the positions. In many places where it is offered it is taught by people who have a minimum of knowledge in the field and whose interests lie in some other teaching area. I know of a high school where Latin was offered this past year for the first time to a beginning enrollment of over 100 bright, eager-eyed students. Within a months time the mortality rate had brought the enrollment down to less than 20. The fault was not in the language, but was rather in the lack of humanity on the part of the teacher. What we need in the field are people who are trained in the subject matter, who believe in what they are teaching, who have a positive personality, and who can see beyond the boredom of declension and conjugation into the marvelous wealth of literature that lies ahead. Grammar and forms per se are boring in any language. I think that we also need desperately young people, such as yourself. I don't believe that I would be too far wrong in saying that many of the people in Classics are 60 or over. I know of schools where the faculty of the school of Classics consists entirely of men who have been retired after long periods of service at other schools. These people in many instances were hired not by choice but by necessity.

What are we going to do about it? Some of you will be going out this year or in the near future to teach Latin in the high schools of our country. I charge you with the responsibility of giving it your best efforts. In the time you have been in the classroom your teachers have tried to give you as much of a picture of the field as was possible. It is up to you to read more deeply and to make the subject more a part of your life and the lives of those whom you teach. It is also your responsibility to push for continued study of Latin on the part of your students. It is up to you to inspire the Latin teachers of the future: not those people who will go through life with a sour attitude toward everything, but those who will inspire others to follow in their footsteps. If you don't feel that the Classics has something to offer these people and that it is something to which they can devote their lives you are in the wrong field. Some of you are in the field because of the inspiration of a former teacher. The torch has been placed in your hands to carry for awhile and at the conclusion of your race it must be passed on to others.

Contributions To The Endowment Fund

Pi, Birmingham-Southern College (bis)
Beta Upsilon, Marshall University (quintus)
Alpha Chi, Tulane University (bis)
Gamma Alpha, Indiana State Teachers College (quarter)
Beta Alpha, State University of South Dakota (ter)
Beta Lambda, Marymount College (bis)
Gamma, Ohio University
Gamma Gamma, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (bis)
Anonymous Donor
Alpha Upsilon, The College of Wooster (bis)
Beta Kappa, College of Notre Dame of Maryland (ter)
Gamma Omega, Baylor University
Douglas C. Burger
Dr. Grace L. Beede

Chi, Coe College (In Memoriam)
Alpha Pi, Gettysburg College
Delta Alpha, Randolph-Macon Woman's College
Beta Zeta, Saint Louis University
Alpha Delta, Agnes Scott College
Gamma Tau, Mississippi College (bis)
Dr. Lillian B. Lawler (bis)
Gamma Xi, Howard University
Gamma Nu, Montclair State College (bis)
Beta Omicron, Mount Mary College (bis)
Gamma Omicron, Monmouth College (bis)
Beta Nu, Mary Washington College
Beta Theta, Hampden-Sydney College (bis)
Beta Sigma, Marquette University
discussions on Pindar, Miss Elizabeth this year, and one new pins this year in order to give the lyze one of the odes for us, also. more, and THE ODES OF PINDAR, translation so that she can better ap­

We had hoped to send delegates to the convention, but the distance was too great for our treasury. We did amend the Constitution to require the club to place twenty dollars or more in the treasury each year in order to pay the cost of the necessary trip every six years. We hope this will relieve the situation.

In brief these have been our activities for the year, Jane Kelley.

ALPHA EPSILON Lehigh University Alpha Epsilon was under the leadership this year of David H. Burdash, Prytanis; Gilbert J. Milian, Hyparchos; William Smalley, Grammateus; and Robert Cus­ma, Chrysophylax. During the year the chapter initiated nine new members. They also took an active part in the ac­tivities of the Archaeological Institute of America, Lehigh Valley Chapter, and sponsored in April an Eta Sigma Phi evening at which the members heard the reading of a Latin play and saw slides of Greece. In May the annual banquet was held at a downtown restaur­ant. David Burdash, Prytanis.

BETA ALPHA State University of South Dakota Beta Alpha's delegates to the national convention, Don Kounas and Oliver Irwin, took the chapter's third contribution to the Eta Sigma Phi Endowment Fund. Mr. Kounas recently received the Rav­nor G. Wellington Award as the junior history major who has shown the great­est improvement in work in that field. Another history award, given to the junior with the highest grade point average, was made to Richard Cutler. Jane Nicholisen and Rosemary Hafner have been elected to South Dakota's Alpha of Phi Beta Kappa. Rosemary was also a candidate for Miss University of South Dakota and for Queen of the Drake Relays. Michael Moench, Charles Rick Johnson, and Beta Alpha's pres­i­dent, Jack Lee Rhodes, are recipients, of the three major annual awards in classics, Jack Rhodes has been winning laurels in regional and national speech tournaments, and, locally, was a mem­ber of the university's team that defeated the visiting Harvard debaters and will meet the debaters from Dublin, Ireland, this month. Dr. Grace Beede, chapter sponsor, and Mr. Jerry Reedy, advisor, have given televised talks on Greek art and on linguistics; Mr. Reedy recently de­livered the main address for the South Dakota JCL convention, and next year, will pursue advanced study at the Uni­versity of Michigan as teaching Fellow in Classical Studies.

BETA XI Rosary College At the April meeting of Beta XI an in­teresting program was presented by several classes of the classics depart­ment. After the presentation of a certifi­cate of membership to Mrs. Harriet Ek­holm, the group joined together in sing­ing "Gaudeamus Igitur." Kathleen Hosey then discussed the problem involved in translating Latin Poetry and used Horace as an example. The Greek drama class presented a scene from "Antigone" and the Roman Comedy class gave an amus­ing presentation from Plautus' "Cap­tives." Mary Lou Cox concluded the program with "The Advancement of the Study of Greek." Donna Curtin, HYPARCHOS.

GAMMA LAMBDA Saint Mary's College The members of Gamma Lambda are taking an active part in the sponsoring of the State Latin Contests in the State of Minnesota. This past year three hundred copies of the contest were ordered by the state. The chapter is in charge of getting the tests corrected, and they are also responsible for presenting the awards to the three top winners. Also the chapter has adopted a classical slides project which includes the renting of slides out to high schools for small fees. Several of their members partici­pated in the annual Eta Sigma Phi con­vention and plans were made to pre­sent a public convocation for the student body with Professor Lowaor of Iowa University as a guest lecturer.

GAMMA RHO Hope College Gamma Rho Chapter of Hope College initiated eight new members in March and on the same night held their an­nual banquet. Their programs this year have included slides and talks on Greece and Rome as well as Indian Civilization in Mexico. The chapter made a trip to the University of Michigan for a tour through the Classics Department and the Museum. Mary Teu Pas, Grammateus.

GAMMA CHI Lindenwood College The members of Gamma Chi had a very active year last year. Some of the program topics were, "Death as viewed by the Greeks and the Romans," "Has Man's Progress been Primarily in Science
since the period of the Greeks,” and “A Main Comparison of Modern Rome to our Modern World Today.” The groups also enjoyed singing Christmas Carols in Latin by torch light and viewing slides of Greece and Rome. The annual Roman banquet closed the activities for the year. Roberta De La Torre, Prytanis.

**DELTA BETA**
Conisius College

Delta Beta Chapter in its second year with the fraternity has begun an annual Latin translation contest in which nearby high school students compete for top honors. In the first year of the contest the chapter was very pleased in the interest and response of the high schools. Plans are already underway for the contest for this year and they are extending the contest to include some schools in Canada.

The chapter is also involved in a class film projection with films taken from the Greek Embassy in Washington. Films are shown at certain periods through the year and are open to any one at the college. They have been excellent to help promote interest for the chapter.

The newly elected officers are president, Paul E. Szarmach; vice president, James N. Myers; corresponding secretary, Daniel J. Dee; recording secretary, John P. Menchini; treasurer, David M. Lee.

Miss Kathleen Sullivan, Chrysophylax of Delta Gamma was awarded the Lourdes Centennial Medal for Excellence in Classical Studies at Marywood’s commencement, Sunday, May 27. Miss Joan Cocodrilli and Miss Victoria Zabka, members of the chapter received honorable mention.

**DELTA GAMMA**
Marywood College

Miss Kathleen Sullivan, Chrysophylax of Delta Gamma was awarded the Lourdes Centennial Medal for Excellence in Classical Studies at Marywood’s commencement, Sunday, May 27. Miss Joan Cocodrilli and Miss Victoria Zabka, members of the chapter received honorable mention.

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