



Alpha Sigma Nu Father Danihy Alumni Club of Southeastern Wisconsin

DANIHY ALUMNI CLUB NEWSLETTER

Fall 2010

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1. Welcome from the president

Welcome to a new year with Alpha Sigma Nu's Danihy Chapter!

Our first event is the annual Fellowship Mass on Sunday, Sept. 19, at 9:30 a.m. at the Chapel of the Holy Family located in the Alumni Memorial Union at Marquette University. Hospitality and a fellowship reception in the Henke Lounge will follow the Mass. Additional details about the event and making your reservation are available in this newsletter.

Please mark your calendars for the 2011 Mass and Awards Brunch on Sunday, April 10. Mass will be held in the Chapel of the Holy Family at the Alumni Memorial Union with brunch in the Henke and Lunda Rooms to follow. Additional details about this and other events are forthcoming.

The activities of the Danihy Chapter would not be possible without your support and the commitment of your Board of Directors. We currently have a vacancy on the board and we invite you to join us. Meetings are held either in person on the Marquette campus or via teleconference. I have found serving on the board to be very rewarding and it has renewed my personal commitment to the Alpha Sigma Nu values of scholarship, loyalty and service. Please contact me at (262) 506-6819 or Danihy@alphasigmanu.org or any board member if you are interested.

We encourage you to update your contact information in the membership directory on the Alpha Sigma Nu Web site, www.AlphaSigmaNu.org. The password is JESUIT (case sensitive). We have found electronic communication to be very effective to reach our members, so keeping your contact information current is critical to keeping you informed.

We look forward to seeing you at the Fellowship Mass. May God bless you and your family.

Warmly,

Terry Ann Peterson, Marquette '75

2. Join fellow alumni and current students for the ΑΣΝ Fellowship Mass on Sept. 19

The Danihy Alumni Club of Southeastern Wisconsin hopes you're enjoying all the summer season has to offer. As the new university year commences, we would love to have you join us to share your adventures and re-connect with ΑΣΝ friends!

Please join us for our annual Fall Fellowship Mass and reception, co-sponsored by the Danihy Alumni Club and Marquette's Alpha Sigma Nu Student Chapter. Family and friends are welcome to join us — the more, the merrier.

This year's event will take place on Sunday, Sept. 19, at 9:30 a.m. Mass will be held in the Chapel of the Holy Family at Marquette University in the Alumni Memorial Union, 1442 W. Wisconsin Ave. A reception will follow in the Henke Lounge, also in the union. Parking is available in Structure 1 at 749 N. 16th St. for a nominal charge. Street parking in the vicinity is free on Sundays.

You may have already received an invitation via Evite, but in case you have not, here is a link to the event if you wish to RSVP electronically:
<http://www.evite.com/app/publicUrl/PJCFMKCACZSJDGIYNBRV/ASN Fellowship>

Our unique fraternity has been called to live the values of scholarship, loyalty, and service, but it is our friendships with one another that bring joy in that journey. We look forward to strengthening the bonds of student chapter members and alumni at this annual celebration. See you there!

3. Reflections from Patricia J. Gorence and Peg Fennig

Patricia J. Gorence and Peg Fennig were honored by the Danihy Alumni Club on April 11 with the 2010 Alumna of the Year and Danihy Club Lifetime Service awards, respectively. The honorees offered the following comments at the event in Marquette University's Alumni Memorial Union.

Patricia J. Gorence

Father, Terry Peterson, Peg Fennig, members of Alpha Sigma Nu, family, and friends: Thank you for being here today. I am very grateful, but humbled, to be honored by the Father Danihy Club of Alpha Sigma Nu with the 2010 Alumna of the Year Award. Thank you.

I am especially pleased to be able to share this day with my family, my husband, John Bach, my daughter, Mara. My other daughter, Amy, who is in graduate school in Philadelphia, and my son, Chris, who recently started a new job in Washington, D.C., are unable to be here today, although I know they are here in spirit. And I am especially pleased that many members of the Bach family – my family – could be here today: my sisters-in-law, Mary Fleming, Nancy Winkler, and Christine Mackey, and my brothers-in-law, Dan Bach, Richard Winkler and Monty Mackey - all of whom have been a very important part of my life for many, many years. All of you have added to the mosaic of my life, to the riches of my life and for this, and much more, thank you.

I believe that several things define a person: love of family, service to others, and the spiritual, moral values reflected in one's relationship with God. As I reflected on the this award and its meaning to me, I thought about the value of my Jesuit education. I also thought about how Alpha Sigma Nu has encouraged me and other Alpha Sigma Nu members to live the Jesuit tradition of dedication to scholarship, loyalty to the ideals of Jesuit education – intellectual, social, moral and religious – and, of course service to others. I feel very blest to have received my undergraduate degree and my law degree from Marquette University.

Almost 95 years ago, on June 4, 1915, Father John Danihy founded Alpha Sigma Nu at Marquette and had the first initiation of members – 11 men. Of particular meaning to me is that Father Danihy was the dean of the College of Journalism in 1915. I am a Marquette J-School graduate and wrote for the *Marquette Tribute*, which he established. As a result, I feel a special connection in receiving this wonderful award.

The Alpha Sigma Nu commitment to scholarship, loyalty and service deeply influences our lives years and years after we leave Marquette. I know it has mine. As I look around this room, I know it has yours as well. I would like to share a few thoughts about the Jesuit tradition of service to others and how it has enriched my life.

Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund, once stated: "Service to others is the rent we pay to be living. It is the very purpose of life and not something you do in your spare time." It is what life is all about.

In my life, I have found that community involvement and service has enriched my life in ways I never could have imagined. Working as a volunteer reporter on a civil rights newspaper in Alabama many years ago

opened my eyes to a whole different world and ultimately gave me a better understanding of myself. Looking back, I realize it changed my life.

I have also found that community service has many benefits. Service to others helped me to realize what is really important to me. It challenged your comfort zone by forcing me to confront and deal with people and issues that were outside my normal life experience. Every time we expand our horizon we grow. And, I believe that we become more open, caring people.

Service in the community helped me confirm that people, regardless of their background and culture, truly are much more alike than they are different. We basically share many of the same concerns and want the same simple things for ourselves and our families.

Through my involvement in the community, I have met so many diverse, wonderful people, many of whom have become my close and dear friends. Terry Peterson is one of them. We met many years ago when we both were planning and working on Women's Resource Day, "Making Choices, Making Changes," which offered a series of workshops for low-income women with a goal of providing information that could help them succeed. We just had our 13th annual Women's Resource Day yesterday at MATC.

Finally, I have learned that in reality, and if truth be told, I always have personally received much more than I could ever give.

I am thankful to Marquette University for the excellent education I received. I also am forever grateful to Alpha Sigma Nu and the University for inspiring me and teaching me what it means to be "a person for others."

Thank you again for this wonderful honor. And thank you all for coming here today.

Peg Fennig

Thanks, Tony. To be honored and thanked for doing a job that was so much fun and for which I was paid is embarrassing. Maybe I should just say thanks and sit down – but you know me well. So here goes...

I am gratified, delighted, honored and a bit surprised. The list of honorees who preceded me is awesome and I feel that my life is quite unremarkable.

In preparing my brief response, I began a journey of remembrance on what influences might have made me a person you would wish to honor. There are many mantras in my life beginning with my parents, who established an Irish family where dinner table talk was integral. Two of mother's mantras were, "Dip your bucket where you are" (Corita Kent said it more elegantly later with "Bloom where you are planted"), and, "Will it matter in a year?" and "Someone has to push!" Daddy also had mantras: one was "right is right is nobody does it and wrong is wrong if everybody does it." He was passionate about educating us so that we would THINK and NEVER BE PART OF A MOB.

My grade and high school mantras were Benedictine: "Pray and labor" and "treat every guest as Christ." The Marquette Jesuit influences were about Finding God in All Things. MU also taught me to multitask while keeping time for fun.

Invitation to Gamma Pi Epsilon (in those halcyon days the female counterpart of ΑΣΝ) thrilled me with the opportunity to belong with the fabulous women who were members and role models like Mabel McElligott, Pat Rueckel and Kay O'Connor. It made my parents very proud and happy and perhaps relieved their fear that I was majoring in Prom...

Marquette gave me my first and last careers, teaching dental hygiene and directing our beloved ΑΣΝ. And I met Bob Fennig here; our marriage has lasted 55 years and given us John and Tom and now their remarkable wives, Martha Wright and Patti. And grandchildren Anthony, Steven, Molly and Sean. That is a lot of joy for one lifetime. Marquette also gave me the great friends of my life. Some are here with us today.

My spiritual life is a pastiche of Benedictine and Jesuit and is directed by a Notre Dame nun, Miriam Ross who is here today. Among her mantras are, "Where is God in all of this?" And, "Well, Peg, what are you supposed to learn here?"

Scholarship Loyalty and Service, the AΣN mantras, are a big part of my life. Loyalty and Service are easy to recall. I have memories of Tom and me integrating one of the first Head Start classes in Milwaukee and of recruiting a bunch of seminarians to circulate open housing petitions on the south side during the '70s. There were roles in all of the dental hygiene organizations and also AMUW and TEMPO.

Among the blessings of our early married years was a five-couple study group led by Father Bernard Cooke of the MU Theology Department. In 1964, before the Vatican Council had ended, we put together a three-semester adult education program, "The Christian in the Post-council World." It was a colossal success, sold out and standing room only. We featured Harvey Cox, Daniel Callahan, Talcott Parsons, Father Richard McCormick and many others. The group also began a Seder meal tradition. Bob and I just hosted the 50th Seder with half of the original group attending...

I hope my life reflects all these influences. In Service, I have been part of many groups but never a mob. My life has been lived here in Milwaukee where God planted me. I have tried to find God in all things and learn from them. That effort occasions what I think of as my "K Mart Prayer." In crowded situations where people are not at their best, I think to myself, 'God loves every one of these sweating, scowling people. You have a lot of work to do, Peg Fennig!'

I am LOYAL to and involved with Marquette and our community and our church. I challenge and push and question and stay.

I'm a bit uncomfortable claiming Scholarship. But I continue to grow and learn and listen and be curious. And I hope that is good enough.

Mine has been a life filled with blessings. The friends and family and you who are here today are a big part of that. When I became the executive director of AΣN, It was an opportunity to use all the skills I had acquired along the way to lead an organization the Panleners had poised for the next phase. ASN has done more for me than ever I did for the organization. If I served it, that was a golden opportunity. If I served well, it was due to the influences of all of the people and mantras along the way.

And now I have the joy of watching my successor, Kate Gaertner, taking our beloved ASN into a greater future.

Thanks for this lovely honor and thanks for listening.

4. An AΣN Family Conversation

The Alpha Sigma Nu family based at Marquette University – our student and alumni chapters – boasts a lively range of membership. Whether hailing originally from the Milwaukee area or not, a graduate of Marquette or another Jesuit university, a current student or a distinguished alum, we all bring unique and exciting interpretations of our shared values to the table.

In the spirit of celebrating our individual journeys on a common path, we offer another round of questions. What inspires you? What motivates you? What refreshes you? Consider the following...and perhaps we can compare notes at our fall gatherings!

- *Which of the AΣN values of scholarship, loyalty, and service do you feel you could spend more time exploring than you do at present?*
- *Whom would you invite to a dinner party – anyone alive or historical, fictional or non-fictional – for the purpose of exciting and refreshing your spirit?*

5. Marquette Student Chapter looking for AΣN alumni speakers

The Alpha Sigma Nu student chapter at Marquette is looking forward to a great year! With an enthusiastic Executive Board and a great group of student members, the chapter is hoping to increase awareness for AΣN as well as encourage more student participation in scheduled events. Among other ideas for events are "Theology on Tap"-like events, new service opportunities, and more speakers.

If you are interested in speaking at Marquette sometime during the 2010-11 academic year, please contact AΣNmarquette@gmail.com. The chapter wants to have a few speakers discuss how to continue to live out Jesuit ideals in different careers. With all chapter members entering junior or senior year, it is important to discuss with students that the values Marquette teaches do not have to be forgotten after leaving the university.

If you are interested in speaking, please contact us at your earliest convenience. Thank you for your continued support!

6. Where are you now? Alpha Sigma Nu wants to know!

Visit www.AlphaSigmaNu.org to find the latest news from Alpha Sigma Nu's central office, search for fellow AΣN alumni, or update your own contact information (click on the Membership Directory link and use the password JESUIT).

The Danihy Alumni Club wants to hear about your accomplishments, connections to Ignatian spirituality, and ideas for future programs and newsletters. Contact Danihy@AlphaSigmaNu.org to stay in touch!

Danihy Alumni Club Board

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