

This edition highlights the call to adaptability and the opportunity of change.



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The Opportunity to Change

This year has taken some unexpected turns. We never expected our May e-newsletter to come on the heels of a spring semester thrown into turmoil by a global pandemic - classes moved online, students moved home, campus events canceled, inductions and commencement ceremonies canceled or postponed. The challenges we all face due to the pandemic have had a unifying force as well, though. To overcome challenges, one needs to refocus and adapt. During this pandemic, we've seen so many signs of solidarity, "We are in this together!" And from our homes, we have **together** found new ways of connecting, communicating, learning, and teaching.

St. Ignatius has always been a great example of adaptability. Not only did he have a major life pivot when he felt the calling of God to a new path for him, but the network he created, the Society of Jesus, had (and still has) as its hallmark a willingness and ability to adapt to different cultures. With a central belief system and core goals, Jesuits went to all corners of the globe to carry out their apostolic mission. Success required adaptability and an openness to meet people where they were.

With Ignatius' leadership as our guide, Alpha Sigma Nu has adapted to the ever-evolving challenges of this pandemic. With 17 chapters scrambling to cancel induction ceremonies, ASN held two virtual induction ceremonies to give students at these geographically diverse schools an experience of induction. We also held the first-ever induction at our newest chapter in Peru *virtually*, including student leaders from our Spanish chapter as presenters. A Senior Send-Off event through Zoom is set to take place May 20th, celebrating the accomplishments of our graduating seniors while sharing resources for living the values of their Jesuit education as they start their next journeys. We have connected with our Jesuit and Ignatian family to share resources with all of you during the pandemic and hosted a Lunch & Learn webinar to candidly discuss how the pandemic is affecting Jesuit universities. And we will continue to adapt as the landscape changes again and the fall semester brings a new reality to the college experience. With each new challenge comes the opportunity to change.

As ASN chapter President at Seattle University **Inaara Bhola** (Seattle U '19) noted, "Change is inevitable; it's part of life. A person adapts, grows, and overcomes many obstacles throughout this journey of change. The day our university was closed to prevent the spread of the virus was the day we had planned our SU Experience Dinner. But we were determined to continue virtually. I hope we can all take a step back, think about the actions we are taking, and understand the potential of change with a positive perspective."



Alpha Sigma Nu takes a Lesson from Ignatius — Conversations

Among the spring celebrations missing due to the COVID-19 pandemic were Alpha Sigma Nu inductions at 17 of our 32 AEN member Jesuit universities. How would students be active in their chapters on their

www.conversationsmagazine.org

Alpha Sigma Nu was recently featured in [Conversations magazine](#). You can read about the challenge of inducting new members amid the pandemic, with the help of a little Ignatian inspiration.

YOUNG ALUMNI LEND NEW IDEAS TO ASN INITIATIVES

Alpha Sigma Nu launched a new initiative this year, the Young Alumni Advisory Council (YAAC). The inaugural cohort of 10 alumni members, who graduated in the last five years, represents diverse backgrounds, alma maters, and experiences with Alpha Sigma Nu.



"The most exciting thing about being a part of YAAC is that I am connecting with like-minded individuals from across the country. This group is made up of passionate, dedicated young adults," noted Morgan Menzsalma (Fordham '18), YAAC Co-Chair. "I am keen to explore new avenues of programming and activities that our society can adopt to help students and alumni better live their pledge," added Joshua Madrid (Regis '16), YAAC Co-Chair.

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CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

This year, in line with a need for adaptability, Alpha Sigma Nu has reimagined the Chapter of the Year award. Student chapters have been hard at work designing programming that

embodies the tenets of scholarship, loyalty, and service and have been innovative and organized in managing their executive boards and student members. It is only fitting that the Chapter of the Year award recognize those chapters who created extraordinary programming, adding value to Alpha Sigma Nu membership.

While we typically award winning chapters during campus events, this year called for a new format. Kate Gaertner used Instagram Live to make a live announcement of all winners. If you missed it, you can find the announcement on our Instagram page ([instagram.com/alphasigmanu](https://www.instagram.com/alphasigmanu)). Five awards honor outstanding work by our chapters this year. We congratulate all the winning chapters and their leaders!

This 2020 overall Chapter of the Year is Loyola University Andalucia. This chapter owes much of its success to the incredible chapter management capabilities of its President **Elena Perez** (Loyola Andalucia `18) and her executive board, along with Adviser **Pedro Pablo Perez** (Loyola Andalucia `15). The chapter at Loyola Andalucia hosted or collaborated on 11 service projects, numerous talks and round tables, an innovative mentoring program, and a full-chapter weekend retreat.



Loyola University Andalucia

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Best Alpha Sigma Nu Day



Marquette University

In our first-ever cross campus celebration of ASN Day on October 17th of last year, we sent each chapter a package of supplies and asked them to hold campus events and be active in the social media campaign to find our #iggyinspiration. Marquette University wins this year's award for Best ASN Day for hosting a tabling event in a central location that had food and swag giveaways, a trivia game about the Jesuit honor society, upper administration and Jesuit attendees, and selfies with St. Ignatius. The event was well-attended, informative, and fun. It certainly raised awareness of Alpha Sigma Nu on campus!

BEST SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMMING

Gonzaga University

BEST LOYALTY PROGRAMMING

Spring Hill College

BEST SERVICE PROGRAMMING

Fordham University

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Alpha Sigma Nu welcomed Michael Sheeran, SJ, President of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU), as the spring Lunch and Learn webinar speaker on May 7. Fr. Sheeran focused his talk on Jesuit Higher Education: Facing Challenges from the Pandemic. He offered a frank snapshot of the state of higher education, and especially Jesuit higher education, in this unusual time. He also illustrated some of the strategies being discussed for the fall semester and indeed the future of these Jesuit schools.

The Lunch and Learn webinar series is a member-exclusive benefit that brings speakers of interest to our Jesuit-educated alumni for spring and fall webinars. Watch for news of our fall event.

If you missed the webinar, [watch the recording](#) to learn about the new reality facing your alma mater.



If you are graduating or are a young alumni member looking to connect with the Jesuit and Ignatian network of organizations and parishes or are in search of a vast collection of articles, books, videos, blogs, etc. about living Ignatian values, the [Stay in Love](#) website from [Ignatian Solidarity Network](#) is your go to handbook.

Many Alpha Sigma Nu chapters put on senior send-off events to cap off the ASN campus experience, sometimes with a reflection or special blessing, to celebrate the student members' many accomplishments, and to give advice on carrying on the values of Jesuit education out in the world. During these events, graduating students are given the Stay in Love booklet as a resource to take with them after graduation. As part of our Ignatian pivot, the ASN central office will put on a virtual senior send-off of our own, open to any graduating ASN member. We will welcome ISN's Lena Chapin to give a virtual tour of Stay in Love, as well as **Michael Rossmann, S.J.** (John Carroll) to talk to the graduates about taking what they learned in their Jesuit education into their new lives and careers post-graduation.



New ASN Video Debut

Watch the new Alpha Sigma Nu video, filmed last fall! This video is a great tool for induction ceremonies, informational meetings, and alumni club events. It is also a wonderful way to get reconnected with the Jesuit honor society and newly inspired by the amazing students and members in the ASN global network.

[Watch](#)

MAGIS MEDAL

**Submit your nomination online by
June 15th**

The Magis Medal is awarded annually to two lay ASN members who best exemplify scholarship, loyalty, and service in their work to better the world. This year, we are even more aware of the everyday heroes doing amazing work in our communities. The award serves to highlight the exemplary work ASN members are doing as they live their ASN pledge out in the world and to inspire new members to carry that flame with them as they graduate.

[Find more information and a list of previous winners.](#)

[Submit a Nomination](#)

"While every school is talking about returning in the fall, every school is developing a plan B, C, and even D."

-Rev. Michael Sheeran, S.J.

President, Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities

ALUMNI VOICES



Stephanie Kekulawela (U of San Francisco `02)

As I walked through the doors of St. Ignatius Church earlier this year, it was as if time had stood still. The stained-glass windows, majestic statues, and grand architecture brought back fond memories of my college years at the University of San Francisco.

Fast forward a few years; I am a surgeon. I had been following my intellectual curiosities in medicine, but all of a sudden, I found myself in the midst of a pandemic. I could not escape from COVID-19 even as a private citizen. Whether it be potential exposure to the coronavirus at work or the social isolation within my community, I had to face the reality that life has changed.



[Read more >>](#)

[Write for ASN]

We want to hear your voice. What's your story?

Alpha Sigma Nu is looking for alumni members to guest write blogs or articles for our publications and website. If you are interested in sharing your journey since induction, [contact us](#).





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