

**Initiation Ceremony**

*October 1st, 2020*

**Open meeting at 5:00 pm**

**Enrique Govea** will hit ‘Record’ and record the meeting to the cloud once it starts at 5 pm.

**Enrique:**

**5:05 - Board Introductions**

**Enrique Govea:** Hello members, friends, and family and welcome to the Centennial Celebration and Initiation Ritual of Pi Sigma Alpha! We appreciate you all taking time out of your busy schedules to make it this evening and cannot wait to get started. My name is Enrique Govea and I am part of the executive board for our local Epsilon Iota chapter here at San Jose State University. Alongside myself, Katy Jensen serves as the Secretary; Lawrence Deng serves as the Vice President; and Raquel Boales serves as the President of our chapter.

I wanted to let you all know that there will be photography taken by Pi Sigma Alpha, as well as a recording of this historical event. For new members-- please have your mailed packages ready to open!

For tonight's agenda, we will learn about the history of our local chapter, then move forward with the initiation ceremony and then hear from Epsilon Iota alumni afterwards.

Now, without further ado I want to introduce Sean Twombly, the Executive Director of Pi Sigma Alpha.

**5:10 -** **Sean** **Twombly** will introduce himself and talk about the history of Pi Sigma Alpha and the local chapter.

**Sean** **Twombly:** Now, if all new members could turn on their cameras and open their packages **carefully.** If you are not an inductee or assisting in the initiation process, please turn off your cameras and mute your microphones.

**5:15 -** Initiation Ritual will start

*(Dr. Currin-Percival, Enrique Govea, Dr. Bill McCraw, and Sean Twombly)*

**Enrique Govea:** With that said, let us begin the initiation ritual and introduce Dr. Bill McCraw, the first Chapter Advisor for the Epsilon Iota chapter and San Jose State University Professor Emeritus.

**Dr. McCraw will introduce himself and proceed to read the following:**

**Dr. McCraw**:

Members of Pi Sigma Alpha, candidates for initiation, and friends: We are here today for the purpose of initiating new members into Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society. This is a special year for Pi Sigma Alpha. It is our centennial. One hundred years ago, in October 1920, the first class of members was inducted at the University of Texas, Austin. The organization sought to encourage and recognize superior achievement in the study of government and politics at the undergraduate and graduate level. That first class included thirteen students, among them a future Supreme Court Justice and U.S. Attorney General, a future U.S. Ambassador, a number of future attorneys, and other individuals who would go on to make an impact at local, national and international levels. Today, Pi Sigma Alpha hosts chapters on nearly 850 campuses and has inducted more than 300,000 members. Its roles feature national, state, and local political leaders including one president, three Supreme Court justices, and dozens of members of Congress. The network of Pi Sigma Alpha members stretches across law, academia, business and more.

*\*next page\**

The study of politics and government is one of the noblest of academic pursuits because a deep and true understanding of the principles by which we govern ourselves contributes directly to the quality of our lives and the well-being of future generations. You have demonstrated, both by your interest in and commitment to this discipline and by your high scholastic achievement, that you have the potential to excel as citizens and scholars and so deserve the honor of membership in Pi Sigma Alpha. With this special honor come the special obligations of leaders to exemplify and safeguard the academic aims of San Jose State University, the honesty and integrity of its scholars, and the ideals of your Alma Mater. You have earned membership in this illustrious society by attaining the highest standards of scholarship not only in the discipline of political science but in your overall academic work as well, in accordance with the rigorous criteria set forth in the national constitution of Pi Sigma Alpha, the by-laws of the Epsilon Iota chapter, and the strict requirements of the Association of College Honor Societies.

**Enrique Govea:** Thank you Dr. McCraw. We will now take a moment to introduce Dr. Mary Currin-Percival. As an esteemed professor and our Chapter Advisor, she will now read the Mission Statement Pledge of our local Epsilon Iota chapter.

**Dr. Currin-Percival:** We would like to remind all initiates to turn their video cameras and microphones on while making this pledge to academic excellence. As we read our mission statement, we would like you to hold your right hand up, palm facing the camera and say “I do” to pledge yourselves virtually to the four following statements:

*\* Wait a few seconds \**

**Initiates,**

**Do you pledge to…**

❖ Encourage political education and conversation from different perspectives in an effort to gain insight and understanding.

**Here everyone can say “I do”**

❖Honor the legacy of our society, emphasizing scholastic excellence.

**Here everyone can say “I do”**

❖Further our knowledge and understanding of political ideas.

**Here everyone can say “I do”**

❖Lastly, Establish meaningful connections with fellow Epsilon Iotas and national members. Connect with local and state government officials and other political actors.

**Here everyone can say “I do”**

**Dr. Currin-Percival:** Thank you all, you may put your hands down now and mute your microphones.

We will now read each initiate’s name individually, in alphabetical order. When your name is called, you may choose to do one of the following:

*(\*you can do the hand motions as you read it to show as an example\*)*

-You may raise your right hand up, palm facing the camera. To signify your induction, you can briefly place your hand over your heart.

-Alternatively, if you have received a chapter pin, you may raise your hand and pin your chapter pin on the left side of your shirt.

**Dr. McCraw:** Your eligibility for membership in Pi Sigma Alpha has been vouched for by Mary Currin-Percival and so you are duly invited to lifetime membership in both the national organization of Pi Sigma Alpha and the Epsilon Iota chapter. By accepting this honor you signify your acceptance of and commitment to the ideals of high scholarship, integrity, and citizenship embodied in the goals of this institution and of Pi Sigma Alpha.

We will now read the names of the inductees:

**\*The name is on the left, the phonetic pronunciation is on the right if needed\***

**Dr. McCraw:**

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**Dr. Currin-Percival:**

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**Enrique Govea:**

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**Dr. McCraw:** Let’s all give a big round of applause for the newly initiated Pi Sigma Alpha Epsilon Iotas! \*clap or use emojis, whatever people want\*

Members, before you turn your videos off, we would like everyone to pose for a quick photo to memorialize this iconic event. On the count of three, say cheese, and hold it for a few seconds so that the board can take a few photos! **(Katy Jensen will take a bunch of screenshots)**

1 - 2 - 3 … Cheese!

\*pause for 5-10 seconds\*

**Raquel Boales:** Hello everyone, and thank you again for attending our Initiation and Centennial Celebration! My name is Raquel Boales and I am the President of our local Epsilon Iota chapter.

A quick congratulations again to newly inducted members, and everyone else who came to support their special day. Considering that we are celebrating 100 years of Pi Sigma Alpha, we decided to appreciate all of the hard work that has built up to this moment by having a few alumni speak. So, with a welcome applause, I would like to welcome all of the alumni to the event and have James Revell start us off with telling us about his experience with Pi Sigma Alpha, and some advice for the undergraduates.

(send them a message on Zoom when it’s time to wrap it up)

1. James Revell 2-3 minutes

Thank you James! Up next, we have Gabriela Banks

1. Gabriela Banks (maiden name, Soto) 2-3 minutes

Thank you Gabriela! Up next, we have James Gaeta

1. James Gaeta 2-3 minutes

Thank you James! Up next, we have Wanda Hendrix

1. Wanda Hendrix 2-3 minutes

Thank you Wanda! Up next, we have Eric Hernandez

1. Eric Hernandez 2-3 minutes

Thank you alumni for speaking and attending this event. Lastly, we would like to play a few messages from previous Pi Sigma Alpha Presidents, courtesy of Sean Twombly in celebration of the initiation and centennial celebration today:

**Enrique Govea** will share his screen and play the 3 videos back to back:

**Primary Link** (only accessible by PSA Exec Board):

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1l1s2WHGQdeIIoyTc20Tvt-xU5JvUIXnN?usp=sharing>

Backup Link (accessible to anyone with the link, viewing and download only):

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1l1s2WHGQdeIIoyTc20Tvt-xU5JvUIXnN?usp=sharing>

**Raquel Boales:** And with that, thank you all for attending tonight's event, and we hope you had a great time. If anyone would like to stay for an informal conversation post-event, we will keep this Zoom meeting open so that students can have the chance to ask alumni any questions they might have, have alumni can catch up, and have a general conversation.

And if you are planning on heading out, thank you again for attending the Centennial Celebration and Initiation of Pi Sigma Alpha members on the 100th anniversary. We are very excited to work with you all in the future. Thanks everyone, and have a great evening!

*End by 6 pm*

**-Finished-**

{If you are reading this, thank you for helping and being an essential part of tonight's event. We couldn’t have done it without you!}