

Beta Alpha Psi to Hold Chartering Ceremony

The USI chapter of Beta Alpha Psi will hold a chartering ceremony and banquet February 17 in Carter Hall. Beta Alpha Psi is an honorary organization for Financial Information students (accounting, finance and information systems) at business schools accredited by AACSB International — the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. The primary objective of Beta Alpha Psi is to encourage and give recognition to scholastic and professional excellence in the business information field, to provide opportunities for self-development, and to encourage a sense of ethical, social, and public responsibility.

Dr. Brian McGuire, chair of the Department of Accounting and Business Law and co-advisor of the Beta Alpha Psi, said the college petitioned for the charter in 2004, and the petition was approved by the executive office of Beta Alpha Psi in October 2004. Following a successful site visit by a Beta Alpha Psi Board member in the third semester of the petitioning process and approval of the chapter at the first National Board Meeting following the site visit, a new chapter receives its charter during the fourth semester.

USI's site visit occurred in November 2005 when Sally Webber, Area Vice President for Beta Alpha Psi, visited the campus over a two-day period. According to Dr. Webber, "she was impressed with what she knew about USI's Accounting Program prior to her visit, but she was amazed at what she saw regarding its program during her visit." She saw prepared and enthusiastic students, organized and caring faculty members, and a supportive administrative staff. In addition, based on what she heard from the various constituencies (students, faculty, etc.), she knew that USI had a very strong Accounting Circle that provided guidance (and potential resources) that help make its accounting program a success.

According to Dr. Mehmet Kocakulah, co-advisor of the Beta Alpha Psi, members of the Accounting Circle, accounting faculty, and USI initiates since inception of the chapter will be invited to the chartering ceremony. Twenty-five current students have earned Beta Alpha Psi membership. At press time, plans for the event were being arranged. Area and national representatives of the organization are expected to take part in the ceremony.