Pi Mu Epsilon Initiation Ceremony

 Welcome to the second annual induction ceremony of the

New York Alpha Omicron Chapter of Pi Mu Epsilon,

the National Mathematics Honor Society.

<u>Information about Pi Mu Epsilon (Janine Belsky):</u>

 We are assembled here to initiate new members into Pi Mu Epsilon.

 Pi Mu Epsilon is a national mathematics honor society. It was founded at

Syracuse University and incorporated at Albany, New York on May 25, 1914.

The purpose of Pi Mu Epsilon is the promotion and recognition of mathematical

scholarship among students in postsecondary institutions. It aims to do this by

electing members on an honorary basis according to their proficiency in

mathematics, and by engaging in activities designed to promote the mathematical

and scholarly development of its members.

 Pi Mu Epsilon is an academic society consisting of chapters throughout the

United States. Chapters of Pi Mu Epsilon may be chartered only at academic

institutions whose standards are excellent in all the liberal arts, and particularly so

in mathematics. A careful probing investigation is made before a charter is granted

to an institution. There are currently over 350 chapters, 41 in New York State.

 Our chapter, the Alpha Omicron Chapter of New York, was granted its charter

in 2011, and the founding Charter Members are listed in today's Induction

Program. **(The Charter should be brought to the Ceremony and displayed.)**

Today's candidates include students from the classes of 2012, 2013 and 2014. Their selection was based upon their outstanding scholastic records and their exceptional performance in mathematics. To be chosen a member of Pi Mu Epsilon is a very high honor.

Administration of the Pledge (Hannah Weeks):

It is necessary, before you are accepted into membership, that you take the Pi Mu Epsilon Scholarship Pledge, which may be found in the Induction Program.

Will the candidates please stand, and repeat the following pledge after me:

"I solemnly promise / that I will exert my best efforts / to promote true scholarship, / particularly in mathematics; / and that I will support the objectives / of the Pi Mu Epsilon Honor Society."

Congratulations on your election to Pi Mu Epsilon, and welcome to this community of scholars.

Induction of the Initiates (Colin Guider and Alex Feingold):

Please be seated. I will now ask **Colin Guider**, President of our chapter, to read the names of the new members to be inducted. As your name is read, please come forward to sign the Roll Book and to receive your Certificate of membership and special items, if you ordered any.

(Prof. Feingold will give out certificates and items.)

Information about the symbols of Pi Mu Epsilon (Hannah Weeks):

Now you will be given some additional information about the organization into which you were just inducted.

(The banner of Pi Mu Epsilon should be displayed.)

Violet, gold and lavender are Pi Mu Epsilon's colors.

The insignia of Pi Mu Epsilon are all represented on the crest. It appears on the banner and in the Induction Program. At the top, surrounded by fleur-de-lis, is the pin, which consists of a triangular rim upon which is a raised oblong. Raised still higher are the Greek letters, Pi, Mu, and Epsilon.

The center of the crest is a shield, divided into four sections. In the upper right hand corner is the design of the conventionalized violet, the symbol of beauty. This represents the beauty present in the development, study, and applications of mathematics. In the lower right-hand corner is the summation sign, symbolizing the discrete, and in the upper left hand corner the integral sign, symbolizing the continuous. In the lower left-hand corner are three stars, representing community, integrity, and truth. There must exist in mathematics the aspect of community--of sharing and of mutual inspiration. It is through cooperation that greatness may be achieved. There is no place in science for deviation from intellectual honesty and integrity. Mathematics must be built on that firm foundation. It is a search for truths by means of logic, order, and precision, which yields powerful and useful results. The ultimate goal of every

action of our society is based on the motto found below the shield in Greek, which translated means:

"To Promote Scholarship and Mathematics"

National Activities (Colin Guider):

I would now like to relate information on the national activities of Pi Mu Epsilon.

The *Pi Mu Epsilon Journal* (**Show a sample copy**) was established in 1949 to encourage publication of students' mathematical research. It is published twice a year, in the spring and in the fall. Twenty dollars of your initiation fee is sent to the National Council to fund your one-year subscription to the *Pi Mu Epsilon Journal*. This *Journal* features articles for students, by students. Each year, the top three student papers to appear in the *PME Journal* receive cash awards.

Students are also encouraged to present papers both locally and at the national meetings of the Mathematical Association of America. Each year the National Office of Pi Mu Epsilon will pay up to $600 of the expenses for one student from each chapter who presents a 15-minute paper at the summer mathematics meeting. If more than one speaker from a chapter attends, each additional speaker (up to four) will be able to receive an allowance equaling up to 20% of what the first speaker receives. In case a chapter has no speakers, then the National Council will furnish one half the travel expenses up to $300 for one delegate from each. In addition, the National Security Agency most years has provided a grant to Pi Mu Epsilon to provide money to student speakers to help pay for their expenses while

at the national meeting. This money should be enough to cover a student speaker's registration fee, room in the dorm, and meals (including the Pi Mu Epsilon banquet). The American Mathematical Society usually provides money to award cash prizes for each outstanding student presentation during the summer meeting. I encourage you to consider giving a presentation at such a meeting, at a regional mathematics meeting of the Mathematical Association of America (MAA), or at a local conference at which students have the opportunity to present papers.

Some undergraduates get to the point of having research results to present by participating in a Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program. These programs, usually run in the summer, occur in many colleges and universities. I plan to participate in an REU this summer at … (**Give details**.)

Besides supporting attendance at the national summer mathematics meetings, the National Office of Pi Mu Epsilon also supplements book awards and other prizes given by individual mathematics departments to students in recognition of their excellent scholarship in mathematics.

Local Activities (Dmytro Savchuk):

The members of the Alpha Omicron Chapter of Pi Mu Epsilon at Binghamton University promote mathematics by sponsoring a few extracurricular activities each semester and organizing the initiation of new members. For example, we have regular meetings with the Mathematics Club. These meetings involve student presentations, invited faculty presentations, solving various mathematical puzzles,

etc. In the Fall semester we usually ask participants of REU programs to report on their work done during the summer. Also, usually once a semester, there is a panel discussion of the classes offered by the Department of Mathematical Sciences, where several invited faculty members answer students' questions about the classes and give advice on the best ways to proceed towards the degree. Among the activities planned for the near future, there will be a Sudoku Tournament on May 3, 7 PM in LN-1120.

The bulk of the work for this induction ceremony and the other activities for Pi Mu Epsilon have been handled by the Permanent Faculty Correspondent, Prof. Alex Feingold, the Faculty Advisor, Prof. Dmytro Savchuk, and the outgoing officers, Janine Belsky, Colin Guider and Hannah Weeks.

(They should please stand up in acknowledgment.)

The officers for the next academic year will be elected by your votes at the next meeting of the chapter, planned for May 7, 2012, 7 PM in LN-2205.

<u>Closing Remarks and Announcements (Alex Feingold):</u>

In closing, on behalf of the members of the Alpha Omicron Chapter of Pi Mu Epsilon, I welcome you to membership in the society. You have been given this honor because of your interest, ability and accomplishments in the field of mathematics. It is a true honor and we are confident that you will regard it as such. We also wish to thank the families and friends who support you during your study of mathematics.

We would like you to gather for a traditional group photo. Parents and friends are also invited to take a photo of the group. After the photo, we invite all of you enjoy some refreshments as you individually congratulate the new members of Pi Mu Epsilon.