Sac State’s venerable honor society cited for excellence

Phi Kappa Phi (PKP), the nation’s oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines, has recognized the Sacramento State chapter as a Chapter of Excellence.

The award, the highest a chapter can receive from the organization, is given to chapters that excel in recognizing and promoting academic excellence in all fields of higher education and engaging the community of scholars in service to others.

Chartered during the 1963-64 academic year, PKP is Sacramento State’s oldest honor society. Its primary objectives are promoting the pursuit of excellence in all fields of higher education and recognizing outstanding achievement by students, faculty and others.

The Chapter of Excellence distinction is part of the national organization’s chapter recognition program, which acknowledged 53 chapters this year, including 29 as Chapters of Excellence.

The Sac State chapter president, anthropology Professor Elizabeth Strasser, is proud of the students and pleased that Provost Frederika “Fraka” Harmsen, a PKP member, attended the honor society's initiation. “It is an honor to attend the Phi Kappa Phi initiation event where our students are being recognized for their commitment in achieving academic excellence,” Harmsen says. “These diverse groups of students are among the very best and brightest at our university and are a model for others to follow.”

Strasser was no less pleased that PKP’s national chapter development director, Karen Powell, spoke at the initiation ceremony and praised the diversity of Sac State initiates.

By receiving the Chapter of Excellence distinction, the Sacramento State chapter is recognized as a thriving organization that meets regularly, holds annual initiations and applies frequently for Phi Kappa Phi’s select awards, grants and fellowships.

Chapters achieving the distinction receive:

- A commendation letter from the society sent to chapter officers and campus administration
- Special recognition on the society’s website, in publications and at the biennial convention
- A specially designed logo for use in chapter communications
- Recognition advertisements in local media and educational journals
- A $500 award

“We are so proud of our students and their accomplishments, including Saugher Nojan, a nominee for a graduate fellowship who last year received one of the highly competitive $5,000 national awards a year after her brother, Amin Nojan, achieved the same distinction,” says a past chapter president, psychology Professor Rebecca Cameron.
“With the talent on our campus, I expect we will see more of our students achieve such recognition.”

For media assistance, contact Sacramento State’s Public Affairs office at (916) 278-6156. – Alan Miller