Greetings.

The Sigma Pi Sigma 2004 Congress was a great success by all measures. Students, faculty and alumni alike were all abuzz for days and weeks after the events, inspired by the speakers, the Trinity site visit, and especially the conversations. You will find plenty of details about the Congress in these pages and even more on the website (www.sigmapisigma.org), so please indulge yourself.

I have to say that it was quite humbling—intimidating, really—to be listed as one of the speakers at this event alongside the dignitaries that were present. While I found every speaker to be fascinating and impressive, and without meaning to diminish the truly inspiring messages that were delivered, I have to say that one of the most memorable sights of the meeting was walking into the meeting prep room and seeing Jocelyn Bell Burnell helping the staff fill the Congress bags with literature and paraphernalia. While my talk lacked the gravitas of many of the others, I did enjoy learning more about the early days of Sigma Pi Sigma and getting a chance to make the history better known. In preparation for my talk I learned about how George Gamow and Edward Teller were both keen on getting Sigma Pi Sigma established at George Washington University when they first arrived in this country (see page 10). The governing Council of Sigma Pi Sigma is now considering which recommendations to act upon first, and should have some progress to report soon. The five workshops on ethics were super and an extra round of thanks goes to all of our workshop speakers, and especially to Bob Hammer and Thomas Olsen for excellent work in synthesizing hours of planning and discussions into tangible results. I heard many report that the topics and conversations between students and those active in the defense industry were eye-opening for both. Marquette undergraduates were so energized by the ethics discussions that they returned to campus with a keen desire to give the next departmental colloquium on ethics!

Plans are already in the works for the next Congress in 2008 at Fermilab. In the meantime there is plenty of food for thought from this Congress...dig in!

Gary White
Director, Society of Physics Students
Sigma Pi Sigma Director and Assistant Director of Education

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Society of Physics Students
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One of the long-lived outcomes from the meeting is the list of ethics recommendations that were approved by the voting delegates (see page 10). The governing Council of Sigma Pi Sigma is now considering which recommendations to act upon first, and should have some progress to report soon. The five workshops on ethics were super and an extra round of thanks goes to all of our workshop speakers, and especially to Bob Hammer and Thomas Olsen for excellent work in synthesizing hours of planning and discussions into tangible results. I heard many report that the topics and conversations between students and those active in the defense industry were eye-opening for both. Marquette undergraduates were so energized by the ethics discussions that they returned to campus with a keen desire to give the next departmental colloquium on ethics!

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