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(AMCIS)

December 2002

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Recommended Citation

Ginzberg, Michael and Buffington, Jim, "THE INFORMATION SYSTEMS HONOR SOCIETY: NEW OPTIONS FOR THE IS COMMUNITY" (2002). *AMCIS 2002 Proceedings*. 334.
<http://aisel.aisnet.org/amcis2002/334>

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THE INFORMATION SYSTEMS HONOR SOCIETY: NEW OPTIONS FOR THE IS COMMUNITY

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Abstract

Many Information Systems departments have begun to investigate the formation of an Information Systems honor society. This panel will introduce two options for creating and running a chapter of an honor society for high achieving IS students. Alpha Iota Mu (AIM) was formed through the International Academy of Information Management (IAIM). It currently has six chapters at U.S. universities for information systems majors. Beta Alpha Psi (BAP) has recently redefined its mission to encompass all business information professionals. As a result, many IS students have been invited to join existing chapters of this fraternity, which had its initial focus in the accounting community. AIS endorsed BAP as an Information Systems honor society in 2001. AIM is also working with AIS for endorsement.

BAP and AIM operate on very different models. The panelists will describe the mission of each group, their operating model, the role of the faculty advisor, and the process involved in forming a new chapter.

Overview of Panel

Jane Fedorowicz will act as moderator and represent AIS on the panel. She will describe AIS' commitment to ensuring that AIS member schools benefit from the availability of excellent options for sponsoring a local chapter of an IS honors society.

Michael Ginzberg currently serves as the Dean on the Board of Directors of Beta Alpha Psi, an honors fraternity that has been in existence since 1917. Jim Buffington is the Founder of the first chapter of Alpha Iota Mu, and an officer in the sponsoring organization, IAIM. These panelists will describe the philosophy behind their organizations, the very different models adopted by each for the number and types of sponsored activities and events, eligibility requirements, chapter formation requirements and guidelines, and the role of the faculty advisor.

The remainder of the session will be open for Q&A.