

The DiGamma Honor Society

The Canisius College Honor Society made its first appearance in 1925 when the group was founded under the name of the Coffin Club. During the years 1925-1943 some 178 student leaders were tapped for membership in the organization. Every year, on the occasion of the Junior Prom, the outstanding seniors were taken into the Honor Society in a colorful ceremony.

During the World War II years, the Coffin Club was allowed to lapse, and, after the war, it was momentarily forgotten in the rush of veterans and the overflowing registration. In the summer of 1952, the leaders of the Alumni Association decided that the time was appropriate to revive the Society. After conferring with the officers of the College, a constitution and by-laws were adopted. In 1968, DiGamma Alpha Society, the Canisius College Honor Society for Women, was established to honor outstanding graduates who had distinguished themselves through service to both the College and the community.

In 1980, the membership of DiGamma and DiGamma Alpha voted for an annual dinner to honor new members of both societies. Three years later, these two societies officially terminated with the formation of the DiGamma Honor Society. The purpose of the DiGamma Honor Society is to honor those who, as alumni, students, faculty or administrators have rendered outstanding service to, and promote the interests and welfare of, the College.

Membership in the Society is limited to alumni, students, faculty and administrators of the College who are elected to membership in accordance with the by-laws. There are two classes of membership, Life member and Student member. Persons eligible for life membership include members of the student chapter of the society upon graduation from the College; alumni who have distinguished themselves over an extended period of time working for the advancement of the College; and members of the Administration and Faculty of the College who have distinguished themselves over an extended period of time through exemplary service for or on behalf of the students and alumni of the College. Members of the administration and faculty shall have generally made a material contribution to the welfare and advancement of the College. Student members shall be fully matriculating students of the College, in their junior or senior year, have completed at least two consecutive semesters as students, have attained a scholastic average of 2.75 or better, have demonstrated initiative indicative of leadership ability; and have distinguished themselves in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities to the credit and betterment of their class and the College.

Through a written nomination process, up to 8 alumni, 2 administration and faculty and 30 student members can be selected for membership and induction in DiGamma each year. Today, there are more than 1,500 total members of DiGamma.

For more than 80 years, Canisius College has recognized its finest students, alumni, faculty and staff with membership in the DiGamma Honor Society. This prestigious society is composed of "men and women for others" who distinguish themselves working for the advancement of the College, and who provide exemplary service on behalf of students and fellow alumni.

DiGamma members selflessly give back to the College the benefits of their talents and education. Their outstanding service to the College, extraordinary leadership accomplishments, abiding concern for others and steadfast commitment to Canisius College - this is what it means to be a DiGamma member.

Whether a new inductee or existing member, the spirit of DiGamma is kept alive as you support the College with those very talents and gifts for which you were honored with membership in the DiGamma Honor Society.