Clemson Pi Phi Wins Prestigious Award

COLUMBIA, S.C. – May 1, 2014 – Mary Geiger Lewis has received Pi Beta Phi Fraternity for Women’s prestigious Carolyn Helman Lichtenberg Crest Award in honor of her professional achievements. Despite a demanding professional and family life, including her recent appointment as U.S. District Judge for the District of South Carolina, Mary has given her time to many South Carolina programs and foundations.

The Carolyn Helman Lichtenberg Crest Award is presented annually to distinguished alumnae of Pi Beta Phi who exhibit excellence and outstanding leadership in their career or volunteer service to their communities. The award is named for past Pi Beta Phi Grand President Carolyn Helman Lichtenberg, who was instrumental in forming Pi Beta Phi Foundation during her term from 1985 to 1991. Crucial Fraternity initiatives, like leadership development programs and academic scholarships, are supported through the stewardship of the Foundation.

Mary was named U.S. District Judge in 2012 and confirmed for the judgeship by a rare bipartisan victory. House Democratic Leader Jim Clyburn recommended Mary to President Obama. U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham-R, who said Mary was well liked by other South Carolina lawyers and judges, also supported her. Additionally, Mary had strong bipartisan support within South Carolina’s legal community.

Mary holds a bachelor’s degree from Clemson University and a Juris Doctor from the University of South Carolina School of Law, where she received the distinguished award of Order of the Coif.

She is a member of the Columbia, South Carolina, Garden Foundation for which she has served as Chairman of the Foundation and President of the local Garden Club. She has been a member of the Board of Trustees of Heathwood Hall Episcopal School. She has served as Commissioner for the South Carolina Educational Television Commission. Mary has also served as a South Carolina Film Industry Task Force member and transition team member for South Carolina Governor Elect James Hodges’ Subcommittee on Law Enforcement.

“When I heard the news I was a recipient of this award, I felt honored and proud to be a Pi Phi,” Mary said. “To me, sisterhood is about friendship that doesn’t end with college graduation. I met my best friend 37 years ago because of our mutual decision to become Pi Phis. We are still best friends today.”

About Pi Beta Phi Fraternity for Women: Founded in 1867 at Monmouth College in Illinois, Pi Beta Phi has installed 200 collegiate chapters and more than 300 alumnae organizations worldwide. Pi BetaPhi promotes friendship, develops women of intellect and integrity, cultivates leadership potential and enriches the lives of members and their communities. The Fraternity believes in the power of reading and through its philanthropy, Read > Lead > Achieve, promotes a lifelong love of reading that can unlock true potential. For more information, visit www.pibetaphi.org or follow Pi Phi on Twitter and Facebook.