



NEWSLETTER

# Pi Gamma Mu

International Honor Society in Social Sciences

The mission of Pi Gamma Mu is to encourage and promote excellence in the social sciences and to uphold the ideals of scholarship and service.

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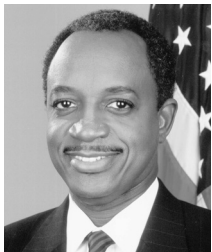
## HALL OF FAME AWARD

Dr. Scott Johnston was presented a special Hall of Fame award when the board of trustees met for their annual meeting last October. The board came together in his home town of St. Paul, MN to present this award to him in person. The awards are normally given out every three years during the PGM triennial conventions. The awards committee thought he was very deserving of this award, and with the board members' approval, St. Paul became the meeting site. During the banquet meal, former PGM President Jean Karlen announced that he was receiving this most prestigious award. Dr. Johnston's wife, Laura, was in attendance when the award was presented. Dr. Susan Myster, the current chapter sponsor at Hamline University, was also in attendance.

Dr. Johnston joined PGM in 1952 and has been the chapter sponsor at Hamline University until his retirement a few years ago. He has been a member of the Board of Trustees since 1967. When he went off the Board of Trustees officially in 1996, the board, not wanting to lose his wealth of knowledge of PGM history, voted unanimously to appoint him an emeritus member. He continues to attend our board meetings, much to our delight. Congratulations, Scott, for this Honoree Extraordinaire Hall of Fame award – you certainly deserve it.



Board of Trustees members, left to right, (back row) Randy Bertolis, Wendell Hester, attorney Michele Price, alternate student representative Taryn Daniels, executive director Sue Watters, Barry Friedman, Larry Heck, (front row) Jean Karlen, Laura Johnston, Scott Johnston, board president Gordon Mercer, Kay Anderson, Charlie McClellan (not present were student representatives Kimberly Prentice and Crystal Belch).



## TRENNIAL INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION: A POLITICAL PARTY!

October 23-25, 2008 is the date for the next convention. Mark your calendars now so you don't miss the party (A Political Party! that is). Since this will be an election year we will use politics as a theme. Our tentative keynote speaker will be the Honorable Michael L. Thurmond, Commissioner of Labor for the State of Georgia. He is an excellent speaker you won't want to miss.

## MEMBERSHIP IS AN EMPLOYMENT PLUS

Membership in Pi Gamma Mu may affect the Civil Service rating at which a person enters Federal Service. Preferential treatment for honor society members was granted by the US Civil Service in 1973 and is continuing. A letter from the US Civil Service states, "Membership in a national honorary society meets one of the requirements for entrance at the GS-7 level in numerous professional and technical occupations in the Federal service." However, applicants must meet all of the requirements as described in the particular Federal Job Announcement covering the position for which they apply."

Someone with a bachelor's degree and no experience is eligible to begin work at GS-5. However, if they have a bachelor's degree and are members of an Association of College Honor

Societies' honor society, persons are eligible for a GS-7. This is at the discretion of the individual department or agency and is not automatic. The increase in salary from GS-5 to GS-7 may be as much as \$3,300.

An instance of the specific requirements are those for tax and legal occupations. There the basic requirement for GS-7 positions can be a bachelor's degree and "membership in a national honorary scholastic society (other than freshman honor societies) recognized by the Association of College Honor Societies." Pi Gamma Mu has been a member of ACHS since 1953.

Honor society membership may also be a factor in obtaining a GS-9 rating. In addition, other employers look for honor society status on your resume. Membership in Pi Gamma Mu is a valuable asset.

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

### PI GAMMA MU International Honor Society in Social Sciences: Hopes for the Future

While this note has been sent to faculty advisers, we also wanted chapter officers and students to share in our efforts to encourage chapter leadership and development. I wish to thank Barry Friedman, our PGM First Vice President, for his assistance on this item and his writing of the attached website on chapter development. On behalf of our Pi Gamma Mu Board of Trustees, we wish you a very successful year. Of course, we hope that part of your successful year will be a flourishing Pi Gamma Mu chapter at your college or university! The board knows very well that Pi Gamma Mu's success depends on our dedicated chapter sponsors. The membership initiation fees that you generate through your initiation activities empower Pi Gamma Mu to deliver "extra" services to you and your students, beyond the membership certificates and pins.

- Pi Gamma Mu's scholarships for graduate education assist some of our best student members in their efforts to pay for their pursuit of advanced degrees.
- Pi Gamma Mu's lecture grants help chapters to pay honoraria and travel expenses for guest speakers that enhance the value of chapter programming.
- Pi Gamma Mu's conventions and conferences provide a forum for student members to present their research papers to an audience of social-science students and professors.
- Pi Gamma Mu's fine refereed journal, the *International Social Science Review*, brings interesting reports of scholarly research to our student members and makes a tangible contribution to the literature of the social sciences.

At the international office, we have added another telephone line to make it easier for you to reach Sue Watters, our executive director, and Beth Biddle, our office manager, when you need their assistance. We have also obtained some new cabinets to improve access to historical membership records so that we can provide good service to your alumni when they make inquiries to our headquarters.

You and your chapter members can look forward to a

redesigned Pi Gamma Mu international Web site, which will be easier to navigate and will provide more information that can be accessed more easily, including a page about merchandise and downloadable resources.

We have every incentive to increase our number of chapters and our number of initiates in order to support our array of services that evolve to serve you more effectively. Over the past two years, we have reactivated 33 chapters! Please remember that *all* courses in the social sciences—anthropology, criminal justice, economics, geography, history, international relations, political science, psychology, social work, social philosophy, and sociology may qualify your college's students for Pi Gamma Mu membership. If you're not sure about which students in other majors and departments are eligible, think about asking colleagues in those other majors and departments to nominate their students. For more ideas about how to recruit eligible students, and thus make your chapter more effective, consult the board's Spring 2004 circular, "Recruitment Ideas," which was distributed to all chapters. You can also download a copy of the circular, as a Microsoft Word document, from this URL address:

<http://www.NGCSU.edu/bdf/PiGamMu/IDEAS.doc>

If each chapter were able to initiate 10 more members per year, on average, we could provide an even stronger program of member services and chapter services. And your chapter would provide recognition to even more dedicated students in the social sciences. The Board of Trustees is motivated to provide the leadership to make Pi Gamma Mu an even more beneficial resource to you, your honor students, your colleagues, and your alumni.

We wish to thank you for all your efforts in supporting academic excellence. Thanks for letting us share some of our continued hopes for the future.

Gordon Mercer  
President

## SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### ACADEMIC STUDIES ABROAD

A great opportunity that is available to students is the **Academic Studies Abroad** program. Academic Studies Abroad is a leader in affordable study abroad programs that allow students to earn college credits while abroad. Opportunities are available now for summer 2007 in Spain, France, Italy and England. There are also programs for the fall and spring semesters. You can check out their website, [www.academicstudies.com](http://www.academicstudies.com) for more information.

### THE WASHINGTON CENTER FOR INTERNSHIPS AND ACADEMIC SEMINARS

Now in its 31st year, The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars is an independent, nonprofit organization serving hundreds of colleges and universities in the United States and other countries by providing selected students challenging opportunities to work and learn in Washington, D.C. for academic credit. The largest such program, with more than 60 full-time staff, The Washington Center has over 35,000 alumni, leaders in numerous professions and nations around the world.

TWC will accept students for the Washington, D.C.-London Program on a space-available basis. Applications arriving after March 15, 2007 should include a \$100 late fee. Regular deadline

for Summer Term/Quarter and Postgraduate 2007 is March 15, 2007. Competitive deadline for Fall Semester/Quarter and Postgraduate 2007 is May 1, 2007. Security clearance deadline for Spring Semester/Quarter and Postgraduate 2008 is May 25, 2007.

The programs provide an integrated academic and work experience to prepare college students and professionals for lives of achievement and civic engagement. The Washington Center connects motivated students with companies, organizations, congressional offices and federal agencies that exemplify the values of leadership and community service. Get further information on their website at: [www.twc.edu](http://www.twc.edu).

### INSTITUTE FOR EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

The Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS) and the Institute for Experiential Learning (IEL) will co-sponsor a \$500 scholarship to any ACHS member student who participates in the ACHS/IEL Washington Internship Program. Pi Gamma Mu has been a member of ACHS since 1953.

ACHS is dedicated to "excellence in scholarship, service, programs, and governance." IEL is known as the "premier internship program in Washington, DC." You can find more information at either group's website, [www.achsnatl.org](http://www.achsnatl.org) or [www.ielnet.org](http://www.ielnet.org).

## CHAPTER SERVICE PROJECTS

The Maryland Gamma chapter at **Salisbury University** helped 300+ underprivileged youngsters shop for Christmas gifts during the annual Salisbury Jaycees shopping spree in December. They also held a "Clean Your Cupboards Campaign" during the end of the school year. A total of eighty-three pounds of assorted canned goods and non-perishable items were collected and then donated to the Maryland Food Bank which was experiencing unprecedented shortages. Many members of the chapter had already donated to the Katrina Food Relief Effort held on campus earlier in the year.

The Virginia Epsilon chapter at **Radford University** undertook to raise funds to support the Measles Initiative of the American Red Cross. An appeal was made at the initiation ceremonies and a portion of chapter fees was set aside to support this cause. The chapter was able to write a check for \$160, bringing the three year total to nearly \$700. In December, the chapter participated in the Student Government Association's Winter Wonderland in conjunction with Radford Community Hospital and Headstart. The chapter purchased toys for one of the sponsored families and participated in the Christmas program.

The West Virginia Theta chapter at **Bluefield State College** worked with Rotary International to send over 500 textbooks to Africa. They donated \$100 to the local Salvation Army to help hurricane Katrina refugees who had relocated to Bluefield, WV.

The members of the New York Tau chapter at **Pace University** updated their *Political Science Lexicon* booklet. This booklet, consisting of 55 pages of definitions, contains the words used in political science discourse. It was placed in the Library Reserve section at Pace University and posted online for appropriate courses.

At **Wayne State College** the Nebraska Delta chapter sponsored the Festival of Trees in December. Organizations from across campus were invited to purchase, decorate, and display "themed" trees in the WSC Student Center for a week. Passersby were encouraged to "vote" for their favorite tree by donating money to each organization's tree bucket. At the end of the week,

awards were distributed to the organizations whose trees collected the most money. The funds were then evenly distributed throughout all participating organizations and used for gift purchases requested by local families in need. Organization members then delivered the gifts and their decorated trees to the families. Over \$1,200 was collected for area families.

Members of the chapter, combined with students from several other organizations on campus, held a Soup Fund Raiser. The event was held during Breast and Cervical Cancer Awareness Month and raised money for the *Every Woman Matters Foundation*, an organization that raises money to help defray the cost of cancer treatment for poor or indigent women. Soup was donated by the WSC campus food service and attendees were asked to pay a modest fee for lunch. An informative cancer awareness slide show was presented and patrons could have their fingernails painted pink to show support for the cause.

The chapter donated several boxes of paperback novels and books that were shipped overseas to the 189th Transportation Company, the Wayne area Nebraska National Guard unit serving in Iraq. They also served as hosts/ushers at the Nebraska Statehood Day celebration that was attended by regional fourth graders.

The West Virginia Zeta chapter at **Glennville State College** has initiated a paper recycling program on campus. They placed boxes around campus and picked up the recycled paper every week. They also held a 50-50 raffle and a candy jar raffle. The organization became a "Secret Santa" through the local community center and raised over \$200 to purchase clothing and toys for a disadvantaged child from the area.

At **Shorter College**, the Georgia Epsilon chapter participated in the college's annual Halloween evening for local children.

The Georgia Kappa chapter at **North Georgia College & State University** donated \$150 for disaster relief related to Hurricane Katrina.

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## STUDENT REP RAP



Hi Y'all!

My name is Taryn Daniels and I graduated from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, in Texas, this past May. I currently attend Baylor University and will graduate in May with a Masters in Social Work. At UMHB I was president of our Pi Gamma Mu chapter and attended the Triennial Conference in October of 2005. While at the conference in Nashville, TN, I ran for student representative for the Board of Trustees. Although not selected for this position I had the privilege of being asked to attend the Board of Trustees meeting that took place in Roseville, Minnesota in October 2006.

On Friday night we listened to reports from the officers. Then we split up into the different committees. I was a part of the Awards Committee along with three other board members. The task we had before us was to choose the chapters who were to receive the rewards for Roll of Distinction and the Roll of Merit. This was a lengthy and difficult process because there were so many chapters who demonstrated service and programming they were involved in. When we finally came to a consensus for the rewards I then went to the next committee meeting. The Convention Planning Committee came up with great ideas for the next Triennial Conference that will take place in Atlanta, GA in October 2008. The ideas consisted of the theme for the conference, entertainment options, and other events that will take place during the conference.

Saturday morning I met with the In House Publications and Webpage Committee over breakfast. We discussed the brochures and other in house publications, but our main focus was the Pi Gamma Mu website. The website is currently in the process of updating to be more functional and to have a more modern look. The ideas that I have seen thus far look great and the website will soon have a new, improved look! After this committee meeting all of the board members came together to discuss and share the committee reports. We took a break from committee reports for a celebration lunch where we honored Mr. Scott Johnston for his service to Pi Gamma Mu. The rest of the afternoon consisted of the remaining committee reports.

That evening I had the opportunity to go out to downtown Minneapolis with my husband and enjoy the city. I had never been that far north so the weather was definitely a huge change for me. I enjoyed the downtown atmosphere. My favorite part of the site seeing was hands down the Mall of America! We were able to spend Sunday there before we flew back to Texas on Sunday evening.

I am grateful for the opportunity given to me to attend the Board of Trustees meeting as an alternate student representative. I enjoyed the experience and felt that what I had to say truly mattered. I want to thank the Board Members for allowing me to attend and making me feel welcomed.

Taryn Daniels  
Alternate Student Representative

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# Pi Gamma Mu

Member of the Association of College Honor Societies

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## CHAPTER SERVICE PROJECTS *continued from page 3*

The Kansas Alpha chapter at **Southwestern College** painted a rock for the Moundbuilding ceremony, a tradition at the college that was started by PGM founder, Dean Leroy Allen.

At **Grambling University**, the Louisiana Eta chapter, along with The Research Club, and BEAP assisted in the task of cleaning the grave sites of the founder of GSU, Charles P. Adams, his family, and the Washington family (the couple that was responsible for getting Adams to Louisiana). These groups also interviewed centenarians and super centenarians in the northern Louisiana area. The PGM group had an Easter Outreach for hospitalized children, sent flowers to nursing homes on Mother's Day, and sponsored a Veteran's Day reception at Lincoln Council on Aging.

At **Evangel University**, the Missouri Omicron chapter spearheaded the fundraising project for Hurricane Katrina victims, and they raised \$4,752. The money was then given to the Convoy of Hope.

The Nebraska Epsilon chapter at **University of Nebraska** at Omaha took part in Project Right to Vote. This was developed by the League of Women Voters of Nebraska, which was aimed at informing former felons of their right to register and vote.



*Initiation ceremony at University of Nebraska at Omaha*

The North Carolina Epsilon chapter at **Appalachian State University** chose to donate \$250 to the Watauga County Habitat for Humanity, Inc.

At **Western Carolina University**, the North Carolina Lambda chapter was a joint sponsor of the 2006 American Youth Congress for high school students to prepare, debate and pass simulated legislation at the local, state and federal level. Over 160 high school students from 16 high schools attended. The chapter also paid for and organized the *Asheville Citizen-Times* project to encourage local civic engagement and issue discussion. Over 100 newspapers were delivered to class buildings each day for class discussions.

**Grove City College's** Pennsylvania Alpha chapter raised funds for Katrina relief and hosted a rubber duck race to raise funds for the American Cancer Society.

At the newly reactivated chapter at **Mansfield University**, the Pennsylvania Kappa members worked in cooperation with the social work honorary and social work club and were part of the Relay for Life. They also decided to raise money to help with the needs of the local homeless and women's shelters. Through two coffee and donut sales, they raised \$60. This money was used to purchase personal care items for the shelters.

At **Howard Payne University**, the Texas Rho students continue to volunteer at Good Samaritan Ministries, a local faith-based ministry to the underprivileged. They collected over 100 backpacks for use by needy public school students. They also ran a dessert stand at a campus-wide celebration of "1950's Week".

The Virginia Delta chapter at **Emory & Henry College** helped to wrap the presents for underprivileged children. This has been a very worthwhile project for their chapter for many years.

At **Bluefield State College**, students and co-sponsors worked with Rotary International to send over 500 textbooks to Africa. They donated \$100 from the chapter treasury to local Salvation Army to help hurricane Katrina refugees who had relocated to Bluefield.

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



**Matthew L. Snyder** joined the Ohio Epsilon chapter while attending Baldwin-Wallace College. He graduated summa cum laude, and then attended William & Mary School of Law where he was a member of the William & Mary Law Review and a Graduate Research Fellow. He was an intern for a member of the Scottish Parliament in a program through the University of Edinburgh. He is now an associate of the law firm of Brzytwa Quick & McCrystal where he specializes in products liability and toxic torts.



Former student representative to the board of trustees, **Nilda Pyronneau**, gave birth to a beautiful baby boy on December 31, 2006. Nilda reported recently that Nathaniel Laguerre is doing very well and has a healthy lung capacity whenever he's not happy. Congratulations Nilda and Rolner!