



# 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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## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS!

If you have joined Pi Gamma Mu this spring, this is the first newsletter you will receive. We are very happy to have you join our organization. Your name has been added to our mailing list, and you will remain on this list as long as you wish to receive our newsletters. There is information at the bottom of the page to make changes to your subscription when necessary.

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Anytime you move, such as after graduation, please notify the Pi Gamma Mu office immediately. This will prevent your mailings from being interrupted or discontinued. The International Social Science Review is not forwarded by the post office, so we don't know if you receive it. Just mail a change of address card, post card, letter, [email](#) or go to our [website](#) to change your address information. We need your name, as well as your old and new address.

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## ANNUAL REPORTS ARE IMPORTANT

Annual Report forms will be mailed to chapter sponsors in August. It is very important that all sponsors fill it out and return to headquarters by September 1. We will put the form on our website soon for those of you who would like to send it back that way. We appreciate each sponsor taking the few minutes to complete and return this report.

If you would like to see your chapter's activities mentioned in the *Pi Gamma Mu Newsletter*, you must send in your Annual Report and tell us what your chapter has been doing this year. Even better, send us **pictures** to put in the newsletter to accompany the activities you sponsored. You can send the pictures attached to an email to headquarters – they work great that way.

You need to brag about your students and what they are doing. We don't know what happens on your campus unless you inform us, so please take a few minutes to fill out the Annual Report. The deadline is September 1 to have the report back at headquarters.

## PI GAMMA MU MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

As many of you know, we have joined with Harris Connect to publish the first-ever list of Pi Gamma Mu members. You can write about your life since joining Pi Gamma Mu and give us a photo to include with your information. We don't want even one member of Pi Gamma Mu to be omitted from this directory! If you have not heard from Harris Connect, or have received information from them, but not contacted them yet, please call 800-653-8765 today so you will be included in this directory.

The directory will be available only to Pi Gamma Mu members. It will not be sold to businesses, so your listing will not attract sales solicitations. The publication deadline is approaching, so please call 800-653-8765 soon.

## STUDENT SHADOW PRESIDENT UPDATE

The White House recently found time to lay out a plan to fix one of the biggest issues facing America. Amazingly enough, I'm not talking about healthcare, either. The very important topic the President and his team has been dealing with lately is a different type of reform – education reform.

I'll admit education reform likely is not as high on Google's "most searched terms" list as healthcare. However, in mid-March, President Obama sent a "blue print" to Congress proposing changes to No Child Left Behind (NCLB). But looking at the possible NCLB change from a broad perspective, it appears to be cheered and criticized in a fashion similar to the healthcare bill.

Writing with no great knowledge of NCLB other than experience and remarks made by teachers, professors, and editorialists, I can honestly say I've never heard a good thing about the law, other than that maybe it "means well." Unfortunately, the goals set by NCLB may have been too lofty, and inadequate funding made these aims unfeasible. This thought exists among my parents, both of whom are teachers. More than one of my college professors have reverberated this idea, as well.

I obviously have experience with NCLB because I went to school during the Bush years. With that, I can proudly say I graduated from a "failing school system" – at least that is what NCLB labeled my high school. Living in a rural town with a meat packing plant, a majority of the students in the school system were new Hispanic immigrants. Many of those students' language skills simply were not up to NCLB standards. In my opinion, this was not a result of poor teachers' or students' laziness, it was just one of the realities of NCLB. Parallel results occurred in school systems with poor and minority children all over the nation.

So Obama has set forth to make changes to "overhaul" this law. This was a campaign promise he made which has yet to be fulfilled. However, while this modification sounds good in speeches, many experts and commentators have expressed their doubts in Obama's plan.

First, the good news. The initial step in the overhaul would provide more funding to the education budget – up to \$4 billion more. It also seems the states and local entities would have more say in how that money is distributed. Obama's new plan would also transfer focus from "failing schools." Instead, improvement on a school-to-school basis would be emphasized, rather than putting all school districts on the same playing field.

Yet, as many healthcare-reform supporters have said about the recent healthcare bill, this proposed legislation may not do enough to fix the problems of NCLB. Among other criticisms is the fact states will still compete for money, meaning some schools will lose out. Standardized tests – a staple of the Bush-version of NCLB – will remain a determining factor when it comes to dishing out resources. Instead of making sure money is spread around evenly or fairly, funding distribution will continue to be competition-based.

Others say too much pressure would again be put on teachers to make sure their students do well on these standardized tests. If there is not adequate improvement, teachers and schools would face harsh sanctions. One provision even recommends a teacher-pay-for-performance system. The major teacher unions are against this new proposition as it is currently written, wanting stability and support from the law rather than threats.

In the end, the reaction to education reform is taking shape the same way people are responding to healthcare: most agree a change needs to be made, but many argue this isn't the right way to do it. Again, I have no personal expertise in this area and am just calling it as I read it. We all must remember that reform of any type is usually for the better. While these changes may not be perfect, at least our nation's leaders are looking to improve education and this is likely a step in the right direction. Will this NCLB "overhaul" fix or even improve education in America? Will this bill even get passed? As with healthcare, only time will tell.

*Eric Knutson*  
Shadow President

## PI GAMMA MU WEBSITE UPDATES

If you have not done so recently, check out the Pi Gamma Mu website ([www.pigammamu.org](http://www.pigammamu.org)). During the board of trustees meeting last fall, several suggestions were made for improvements to the website. We have been busy this spring accomplishing these suggestions.

There is now a listing of our active [Pi Gamma Mu chapters](#) ([Chapters](#) drop-down menu). This listing can be sorted by state and region. Names of chapter sponsors and their contact email information is also on this list.

There is a web page that solicits [donations](#) ([Scholarships](#) drop-down menu) and recognizes those who have donated \$25 or more this fiscal year. Please consider adding your name to this list by making a donation to our honor society. We are a 501©3 tax-exempt organization, and will send an acknowledgement of your donation to the address you provide us.

We have revised the [Charter Application form](#) for anyone considering starting a chapter at their university. This new form, along with information about the process, can be found under the [Join](#) drop-down menu then select '[Start a Chapter](#)'.

## ROLLS ANNOUNCED

The Awards Committee of the Pi Gamma Mu Board of Trustees announced their decision on the Roll of Distinction and Roll of Merit at the annual meeting in October.

The Rolls are the result of the decision by the Awards Committee on the basis of the annual reports filed by responsible chapter officers. Among the criteria reported are facts indicative of the activity and effectiveness of the chapter on its campus, as well as its efficiency of operation according to procedures suggested or required by the international organization of Pi Gamma Mu. This includes chapter organization and participation by faculty and students, election and initiation of members, and financial responsibility. Local initiative in developing new activities or methods of operation is especially noted. These lists are in alphabetical order.

### ROLL OF MERIT

**Georgia Kappa**, North Georgia College & State University, Kelly Cate, Barry Friedman  
**Illinois Kappa**, Dominican University, Janice Monti  
**Louisiana Eta**, Grambling State University, Frances Staten  
**Missouri Omicron**, Evangel University, Lew Hall  
**North Carolina Lambda**, Western Carolina University, Gordon Mercer  
**Philippine Beta**, Del La Salle University, Exaltacion Lamberte, Romeo Lee, Stella Go, Cristela Goce-Dakila, Gerardo Mariano  
**South Carolina Theta**, University of South Carolina-Aiken, Barbara Johnson  
**Virginia Iota**, Emory & Henry College, John Roper, John Morgan

### ROLL OF DISTINCTION

**Nebraska Delta**, Wayne State College, Jean Karlen, Randy Bertolas  
**Nebraska Epsilon**, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Jodi Neathery-Castro  
**New York Tau**, Pace University, Linda Quest  
**Ohio Eta**, Kent State University, Will Kalkhoff  
**Pennsylvania Kappa**, Mansfield University, Janice Kay Purk  
**Philippine Alpha**, University of the Philippines, Elizabeth Ventura, Cecilia Gastardo-Conaco, Normita Recto, Eliseo de Guzman, Paz H. Diaz, Ma. Lourdes G. Rebullida  
**Virginia Epsilon**, Radford University, Charles W. McClellan, Sharon Roger Hepburn, Kay Jordan, Mike Montgomery  
**West Virginia Theta**, Bluefield State College, James Voelker, Anthony Woart

## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

One of the ideals of Pi Gamma Mu is Social Service, and, as the ritual for initiation states, "The pursuit of our ideals requires giving freely, fully, and joyously of our time, talent, and energy. The fruit of our scholarship, science, and idealism is reaped through service to others for the benefit of all humanity, and this, in turn, requires the cooperation, dedication, passion and participation of all people and of all the social sciences."

The members of Pi Gamma Mu are very generous with their time and talents. Look at some of the projects undertaken this past year - you might see one your chapter could participate in.

The Pennsylvania Alpha Nu chapter at **Holy Family University** took a trip to the Pennsylvania state capital for "Student Lobby Day".



Students Alison Smith, Kubra Waiters, Rashid Gilmore visit with Kyle Mullins, Legislative Assistant to Senator Mike Stoeb



Rashid Gilmore, Senator Mike Stoeb, Kubra Waiters and Alison Smith in the Democratic Caucus Room

At the Missouri Omicron chapter at **Evangel University** Constitution Day is celebrated every year on September 17. All of the Social Science clubs and organizations gather together and co-sponsor an event where students of all majors are given a brief history of our Constitution. Jeff Brauch, the dean of Regent University's Robertson School of Law was in attendance. He spoke about our Constitution and the responsibility of students to carry on the tradition of studying law and upholding truth.

Over spring break, several students were able to travel abroad. Pi Gamma Mu sponsored a night of student presentations where students who wished to receive academic credit could present accounts of their trip. The requirements to present at this event were the interviewing of three local officials of the country visited as well as some sort of service project in that community. Refreshments were served after the presentations. This event was successful, and will become an annual event.

This chapter also sponsors a study break the day before finals begin. They provide students with pizza and drinks free of charge. All majors are welcome to attend the event, and it is used as a recruitment event to get underclassmen excited about getting involved in the coming year.

At **North Georgia College and State University**, the Georgia Kappa chapter participated in providing funding to the Kiva organization. This organization provides microloans to entrepreneurs in developing countries. The chapter submitted \$125 for the project. That means that, at any given time, we have provided \$25 toward microloans for each of five such entrepreneurs. These microloans are to be paid back as the individuals make a profit from their new business.

The Georgia Kappa chapter also arranged for a presentation by former Georgia Secretary of State Cathy Cox, J.D. The title of her speech was, "Georgia's First Female Secretary of State Discusses the 2008 Election that Led to the First-Ever African American to Serve as President of the United States." Ms. Cox is president of Young Harris College.



Chapter members Rashid Gilmore, Seely Leyenberger, M.Ed., Melissa Hipwell and Brittany La Couture in Harrisburg on the plaza in front of the state capital building. Ms. La Couture will be attending George Washington University School of Law in the fall.



President Betsy Board presents Dr. Steve Fisher with his Hall of Fame plaque.

At **Emory & Henry College**, the Virginia Delta chapter presented Dr. Steve Fisher with a plaque awarded to him at the Triennial International Convention. Dr. Fisher was selected to the Pi Gamma Mu Hall of Fame for his many years of service to the Virginia Delta chapter. During the fall the chapter sponsored debates about the presidential election. During this meeting, Pi Gamma Mu member Ashley Griffith reported on her trip to the Iowa Primary. Chapter president for 2009-10, Richard Aylor spent last summer with the Virginia Organizing Project canvassing people in Roanoke and New River Valley to see what their health care needs were for this scientific political science poll. He was hoping to reach 20,000 people during this project. Members also helped again this year with the Santa Claus Project for Kids wrapping presents for kids from the local area.

The Illinois Kappa chapter at **Dominican University** had another busy year. Students in the chapter helped organize and publicize a public lecture on "The Missing Women of Juarez" discussing the hundreds of women who have been murdered in Juarez, Mexico. Over 400 bodies

have been found in the desert and approximately 100 women are still missing.

They also assisted with the Blues and the Spirit Symposium, a national conference on the legacy of blues and gospel music that brought together scholars, musicians and industry professionals as well as community residents, academicians, students and fans of the genre. The students worked at the registration table, running tours and checking in overnight guests. About 200 people attended the conference and 700 people attended the Friday evening blues concert.

The brand new Kansas Gamma chapter at **Central Christian College of Kansas** got off to a great start this year. They had three Psych Movie Nights that consisted of watching a movie pertaining to various psychological disorders, followed by a discussion of those disorders, etiologies, diagnoses, treatment options, and how their disorders affected their lives as well as those around them.

At **University of South Florida**, the Florida Eta chapter donated \$125 to the East Pasco Habitat for Humanity, \$25 donation to the chapter at Washington and Jefferson College for cookie money at their first initiation ceremony, delivered 10 Easter baskets for children in the local Shriners' Hospital,

The New York Nu chapter at **St. Joseph's College** raised funds that contributed to the rebuilding of Pakistan schools for children through the

Pennies for Peace organization.

At **Bluefield State College** the West Virginia Theta chapter raised funds to make a charitable donation to the Wade Center. The center provides after school enrichment programs to youth in the public schools, and the funds were used for an after school pizza party. They donated money for the purchase of toiletry items for the Mercer County Fellowship Home which serves recovering drug addicts and alcoholics in a residential setting. The chapter sponsored a hole at a local golf tournament. The proceeds supported the Rotary Club's service activities, including several college scholarships.

The North Carolina Mu chapter at **Campbell University** co-sponsored a lecture, open to the entire university, by Professor Rob Verhofstad of Radboud University in the Netherlands. Professor Verhofstad is the manager of the International Office and political science lecturer at Nijmegen School of Management. He specializes in internationalization, political science, American foreign policy, Cold War history and Dutch politics and history. He also spoke on "The Harmonization of Higher Education in Europe."

The Kuwait Alpha chapter at the **American University of Kuwait** sponsored a graduate school workshop. They brought together three faculty from different disciplines to talk about the process of applying and starting masters programs in both the US and the UK systems. They also sponsored a lecture by Dr. Gregory Gause, the Kuwait Foundation Visiting Professor at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, entitled "Should America Promote Democracy in the Arab World?"

The Philippine Alpha chapter at the **University of the Philippines** and the Beta chapter at De La Salle University held a forum entitled "The Social Sciences in Everyday Life." The Philippine Alpha chapter agreed to award one thesis grant and one dissertation grant to deserving students, and the awarding of a professorial chair to one deserving faculty member.

The Louisiana Eta chapter at **Grambling State University** continued their cemetery preservation project of cleaning a neglected cemetery, recycling cemetery flowers, nursing home visitations, donation of non-perishable items, hospital visitation and delivery of Easter baskets and teddy bears to the children's unit there, Let's Raise a Million/Energy Efficient Light-Bulb Project, and the Lincoln Parish Clean-up Campaign.

## INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATE MEMBERS

The Board of Trustees has established the criteria for accepting International Affiliate Memberships. Please think about the foreign students and visiting faculty on your campus that might fit into this category, and consider the benefits of choosing them for this special membership.

The purposes of International Affiliate Membership are to associate foreign visitors with Pi Gamma Mu. This would include individuals who generally are not eligible for full membership because of their brief tenure on a campus. We would like to encourage the international dimension of Pi Gamma Mu by bringing into greater contact with Pi Gamma Mu our foreign guests, to enable them to provide information to colleagues abroad about our organization, and to become a nucleus for foreign chapter development. Therefore the membership criteria are broadly cast.

Criteria for membership: Students, faculty, administrators, and distinguished guests from other nations who have an interest in the social sciences.

Benefits:

1. A certificate issued by international headquarters in recognition of International Affiliate Member status (not the full membership certificate);
2. A Pi Gamma Mu key pin and membership card.
3. A one-year subscription to the *Pi Gamma Mu Newsletter* and the *International Social Science Review*;
4. Privilege of participating in local chapter activities, except for serving as an officer.

The cost is \$20.00 to be sent by the chapter to International Headquarters to cover the expenses of the publications, journal mailings, and key pin.

## IDEALS OF PI GAMMA MU

There are seven ideals of Pi Gamma Mu. Do you know them?

1. **Scholarship** – it is basic to all the rest. With knowledge, we can build society and better understand humanity and what has been thought and said and tried in all generations.
2. **Science** – we need and admire the spirit of science – the firm belief that the problems that confront humanity can be solved if we will search out the facts and think clearly on the basis of those facts.
3. **Social Science** – we shall never understand or solve the problems of human association until we examine the souls of people, the passions, prejudices, hopes and fears.
4. **Social Idealism** – we believe in a human society fit for human life that humans themselves can build. “Where there is no vision the people perish.” We will not give up our vision.
5. **Sociability** – specialization makes us narrow. Our social problems are complex. They will never be solved without the cooperation of all the social sciences and of those who study them.
6. **Social Service** – the primary purpose of science is to know and to enable us to do. What we know we want to put to work for the benefit of humanity.
7. **Sacrifice** – we are engaged in the greatest and finest of all the arts, the building of human society. Without giving freely, fully, and sacrificially of means, time, talent, energy and passion, all our other ideals will fall short and the contributions we hope to bring will never come.

## CALL FOR PAPERS

The *International Social Science Review*, the peer-reviewed journal of Pi Gamma Mu Honor Society in Social Sciences published semi-annually, invites the submission of manuscripts in history, political science, sociology, anthropology, economics, international relations, criminal justice, social work, psychology, social philosophy, history of education, and human/cultural geography. Articles must be based on original research, well-written, and not exceed thirty pages (including endnotes, and double-spaced and written in Times New Roman 12 font). Endnotes and style must conform with Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (7th ed.) and *Chicago Manual of Style* (15th ed.), respectively. Deadline for submissions for publication in the Spring issue is January 15; for the Fall issue, June 15. Authors interested in publishing in the ISSR are asked to submit a 100-150 word abstract of their manuscript, three hard copies of the paper (e-mail submissions will not be accepted), contact information (phone number, mailing address, e-mail address), and an abbreviated C.V. to:

Dean Fafoutis  
Editor, International Social Science Review  
Department of History  
Salisbury University  
1101 Camden Avenue  
Salisbury, MD 21801  
[dxfafoutis@salisbury.edu](mailto:dxfafoutis@salisbury.edu)  
(410) 546-6004

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