



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.

Number 172

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## JOIN US IN WASHINGTON, D.C., AND EXPERIENCE THE HISTORY OF THIS WONDERFUL NATION

Students, please note: If you have never been to our nation's capital, this is the perfect opportunity. We plan to hold some of our sessions in a meeting room on Capitol Hill. We are looking forward to hearing about our students' research projects. If you are a student considering attending the convention and you want to present a research paper or display a poster, please submit your proposals to the Committee of Readers. The deadline is **June 1**. As an extra incentive to present a paper, Pi Gamma Mu will pay for one night's lodging if your paper or poster is selected.

You can get all the details from the [January 2011 edition of the Pi Gamma Mu Newsletter](#).



### 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. Just mail a change of address card, post card, or letter with your name and old and new addresses to Pi Gamma Mu, 1001 Millington, Suite B, Winfield, KS 67156. You can also E-mail the information to us at [pgm@sckans.edu](mailto:pgm@sckans.edu), or through the Web site, [www.pigammamu.org](http://www.pigammamu.org).

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# NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

## Efforts to Organize and Coordinate Events and Projects Test Our Communication Skills

As we enter the final months of the 2010-2011 academic year with chapter initiation ceremonies and officer inductions for 2011-2012, I want to thank Pi Gamma Mu faculty advisers and students for their volunteer work and support.

I am pleased to announce that our international Board of Trustees, voted to support the disaster-relief effort in Japan. The combined wallop of the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear crisis is one of the worst disasters in Japanese history. We are working with the International Rescue Committee, which has an excellent record on global disasters, and have sent a check for \$1200. This includes money from our national treasury as well as from the Georgia Kappa chapter at North Georgia College & State University and North Carolina Lambda chapter at Western Carolina University. Other chapters wanting to help in the relief efforts may send checks to headquarters to be sent to the International Rescue Committee or may choose to work with the relief agency of their choice. Given our ideals of service and sacrifice, we wanted to encourage chapters to support relief efforts and our board wanted to set an example rather than stand on the sidelines. I commend our board for taking action.

We have one of our best-ever Pi Gamma Mu triennial international conventions planned for Oct. 20-22, 2011, in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. Student research papers and posters are scheduled to be presented in a U. S. congressional-committee hearing room, although final arrangements for the exact location cannot be finalized until two months before the convention date. Please refer to the article "Join Us in Washington, D. C., and Experience the History of this Wonderful Nation" for special instructions for students wishing to present research papers or posters. This will be a perfect opportunity for our students to experience the majesty of the U. S. Congress. If you wish to present a paper, your paper proposal needs to be received by June 1. Our objective this year is for all chapters to be represented in our conference panels.

So we can plan, we will be asking faculty advisers for advance commitments on numbers of delegates who plan to attend the convention. It will help if you register early. With our new Pi Gamma Mu Members Today directory, we hope to see more lifetime members at our convention as we form our first Pi Gamma Mu Alumni Council.

Periodically, Americans need to examine our U. S. Constitution. We will do this at our convention. Are new amendments needed? Imagine for a moment the organizational efforts of our founders as they prepared for the Philadelphia Constitutional Convention in 1787. Were they silent before and after the convention? Did they write letters and communicate with each other about the provisions of the Constitution that they hoped would create a stable governmental system? Effective conventions require communication and supportive cooperation. Our Pi Gamma Mu National Constitutional Convention will give the U. S. Congress an idea of what young Americans are thinking about constitutional reform. Please begin to plan your proposed amendments for our convention.

Whether we are organizing our relief efforts for Japan or organizing for our convention, I hope that you will remember to get involved and help organize our convention in October 2011.

*Gordon E. Mercer*  
International President

## GRADUATION HONOR CORDS



With graduation coming up soon, don't forget to order your honor cords. These attractive royal- blue and white double cords with blue tassels are made especially for Pi Gamma Mu and look very nice with your graduation gown.

Prices are \$15 for a set of cords, plus \$2.95 for shipping and handling. You can place an order any time by sending the number of cords needed, the money, and the address where they should be mailed, to Pi Gamma Mu, 1001 Millington, Suite B, Winfield, KS 67156. If you prefer, you can call our headquarters (620-221-3128) and give us a credit-card number and we will mail the honor cords to you the same day.

## PRESERVING YOUR CHAPTER'S HERITAGE AND LEGACIES

Time was when groups and organizations elected historians to keep track of and record their activities and achievements. *How much do you know about the history and traditions of your Pi Gamma Mu chapter?* Some chapters have traditions that span the whole 85 years of the organization's existence, while others have only recently been chartered. But whether yours is an older chapter or a recent one, preserving and recording for posterity that history and those traditions are important.

The Pi Gamma Mu Board of Trustees created Chapter Heritage Awards and encourages chapters to apply for them. There is no deadline: Applications will be reviewed as they are submitted. Chapter Heritage Awards were approved to promote two general goals: (1) encourage chapters to explore and record their histories or (2) prepare a nomination for some faculty adviser (past or present) to become a member of the Pi Gamma Mu Hall of Fame. These awards are in the amount of \$300 and support the research costs necessary to bring these projects to fruition.

Chapters often have resources of which they are not aware to explore their histories. Advisers may have chapter files inherited from past advisers that have been largely unexamined. Such files may contain information about past officers, members, projects, publicity, etc., that could be important in writing a chapter history. Also, many college and town newspapers are preserved in university libraries and are a valuable resource for doing such research. Individuals may also possess oral knowledge of their chapter's activities: current and past advisers and past officers can be interviewed. A chapter history is a nice item to place on your chapter Web site. Pi Gamma Mu's international headquarters is also anxious to collect these documents. Chapters may also want to give thought to renewing the older tradition of electing a chapter historian. To be eligible for a grant supporting the writing of a chapter history, chapters must have been in existence for at least 10 years, but chapters can begin and are encouraged to preserve their history as it unfolds.

Such research will undoubtedly identify certain individuals who have been particularly instrumental in the establishment, success, and growth of the chapter. Many are hardworking chapter advisers, little recognized for their years of service and dedication to the organization. Consider nominating them for induction into the [Pi Gamma Mu Hall of Fame](#). At this fall's triennial international convention, additional individuals will be inducted. *Why not someone from your chapter?* Contact the international office for additional information or [download the application form from our Web site](#).

## 2011 CONVENTION REGISTRATION

On September 1 a convention registration form will be sent to each chapter. Chapters may download additional registration forms at: <http://apache.northgeorgia.edu/bdf/PiGamMu/ICONF.pdf>. The form, accompanied by a fee of \$18 for each registrant, must be returned to headquarters no later than **October 3, 2011**.

## AGENDA

Thursday, October 20, 2011

- 9 a.m. Meeting of the Board's Executive Committee
- 9:30 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting
- 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Luncheon for Old and New Trustees
- 1-3 p.m. Board of Trustees Committee Meetings
- 3-5 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting (guests welcome)
- 5-7 p.m. Registration
- 5-7 p.m. Dinner on Your Own
- 7-7:45 p.m. Welcome (President Gordon E. Mercer)  
Keynote Address (TBD)
- 7:45-8:05 p.m. Dessert Bar
- 8:05 p.m. Roll Call of Chapters (Executive Director Sue Watters)
- Ice Breaker: "Who Said That?"** (TBD)
- 8:30 p.m. **Pi Gamma Mu Constitutional Convention** (Student Trustees Mark Bender and Michaela Dolphin)

We will ask delegates to bring a stuffed animal, perhaps with some kind of state-specific identification such as a state flag or a ribbon with the name of the state on it. We'll pretend to have a national Constitutional Convention for the proposal of amendments to the U. S. Constitution. Then, we'll donate the stuffed animals to the Fairfax County Artemis House, a shelter for battered women and their children. Denise Cannon, director of community outreach, will accept the stuffed animals on behalf of the children who will be at the Artemis House.

*This is a very well-regarded and popular service project!* Veterans of previous conventions undoubtedly remember the 2002 "Teddy Bear Pageant," the 2005 "March of the Musical Toys," and the 2008 "National Nominating Convention."

- 9:15-10 p.m. Student Mixer / Caucus #1 -- Nomination process for student trustees (Student Trustees Mark Bender and Michaela Dolphin)
- 9:15-10 p.m. Recognition of Alumnus/Alumna Members and Discussion (President Gordon E. Mercer and Past Student Trustees Jamie Cooper and Nilda Pyronneau)

Friday, October 21, 2011

- 8-9 a.m. Registration
- 8-9 a.m. Breakfast Orientation for Trustees and Governors  
(President Gordon E. Mercer, First Vice President Barry D. Friedman)
- 9-9:30 a.m. Travel via Metrorail to [congressional office building, TBD] for student presentations
- 9:30-12 noon Student Panel Session (presentation of students' papers)  
(Convenor: Hon. Devta Ohri, alumnus member, University of Maryland – College Park)
- 12 noon-1 p.m. Lunch on Your Own
- 1-4 p.m. Student Panel Session (presentation of students' papers) / Poster sessions  
(Convenor: Past President Jean Karlen)
- 4-7 p.m. Tour of the Mall: "It's a Mall World After All" (Secretary-Treasurer Larry Heck)

Saturday, October 22, 2011

- 8-8:30 a.m. Student Caucus #2
- 8:30-10 a.m. Student Balloting for New Student Trustees
- 8:30-10 a.m. Workshops
- Life in Graduate School (Student Trustee Michaela Dolphin)
  - The Role of Alumni/ae in Pi Gamma Mu: Formation of an Alumnus Council (President Gordon E. Mercer and First Vice President Barry D. Friedman)
  - "Making a Difference": Opportunities for Service Projects in Pi Gamma Mu (Discussion) (Second Vice President Charles McClellan and Chancellor Clara Small)
  - Legal Issues at the Chapter Level (Pi Gamma Mu Legal Counsel Michele Price)
- 10-11:30 a.m. Plenary Business Session
- Introduction of Trustees, Governors, and Pi Gamma Mu Staff  
(First Vice President Barry D. Friedman)
- Recognition of Faculty Advisors (Executive Director Sue Watters)
- President Gordon E. Mercer will conduct the following:*
- Pi Gamma Mu Special Awards
  - Triennial Report
  - Installation of Officers and Board Members
  - Discussion of 2014 Convention Site
- 12 noon-1:30 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting (new board)

## **ANNUAL REPORTS ARE ESSENTIAL: IT'S THE LAW!**

Chapter sponsors will soon be receiving Annual Report forms. The [form is also available on our Web site](#), for those of you who would like to send it back using the Internet. The deadline for turning in your chapter's report is September 1.

Because of the requirements from the Internal Revenue Service (see the article "Pi Gamma Mu Protects Chapters from Uncle Sam"), it is *essential* that sponsors fill out and return their Annual Reports to headquarters promptly. We will begin filing the IRS Form 990-N e-postcards for our *reporting* chapters with the IRS in September of each year, but we will *not* be able to report on behalf of and protect *non-reporting* chapters!

If you would like to see your chapter's activities mentioned in the newsletter, you must tell us what your chapter has been doing. You need to brag about your students. We don't know what happens on your campus unless you inform us, so please take a few minutes to fill out the report. Even better, include **pictures** to accompany the report of activities you sponsored. You can also send these pictures to headquarters as an E-mail attachment.

## CHAPTERS IN ACTION

Congratulations to Dr. John Roper, sponsor of the Virginia Delta chapter at **Emory & Henry College**, for receiving the Excellence in Teaching Award for 2009-2010. The awardee was determined by a vote of the college's student body.

At **Western Carolina University**, the North Carolina Lambda chapter sponsored a special event on KFSC radio station to cover the 2010 U. S. national election and to evaluate the performance of President Barack Obama. Political-science professors and students were on the 30-minute program moderated by Dr. Gordon Mercer, chapter sponsor and Pi Gamma Mu international president.

The chapter selected the C. Don Livingston Scholarship as a service project, contributing \$200 to this scholarship for social-science majors. This scholarship is named for Dr. Donald Livingston, a political-science faculty member and former chapter adviser. The chapter has contributed \$600 to the scholarship to date.

Another initiative was to honor community leaders with honorary memberships. The chapter initiated Chief Michell Hicks, chief of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, for his leadership in economic development and his work to preserve Cherokee language, music, and history. Cory Blankenship was initiated due to his work with the Oconaluftee Indian Village, a living village of 1750 life among Cherokee Indians. Chapter adviser Gordon Mercer, presided at a meeting of Cherokee and Western Carolina University leaders in the fall of 2009 and successfully proposed the addition of a representative from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Tommye Saunooke, a Tribal Council member and Pi Gamma Mu member to the Western Carolina University Board of Trustees.

The Pennsylvania Alpha Omicron chapter at **Washington and Jefferson College** had a great year. It was the recipient of one of only six advisor grants which were given out by the national Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS). In 2008, the ACHS initiated an advisor-grant program on social responsibility. The ACHS awards a monetary gift to a group of advisors from among all ACHS-affiliated honor societies who apply. This project reflects the service aspect of the mission of ACHS as well as Pi Gamma Mu, and offers support in developing leadership in social responsibility at the chapter level. Dr. Yongsheng Wang applied for this grant with the vision to get the students across campus involved in supporting Animal Friends, Inc., and Homeless Children's Education Fund.

In October 2009, chapter members helped to operate one of the famous Pittsburgh local Halloween Haunted Houses. It provided fun activities to kids, and also the haunted house donated money to local charities in return for one night's work. In December, the chapter members, including some faculty members, organized a "Breakfast with Santa" event together with the local Kiwanis Club. They provided free meals and gifts to nearly 100 children. They also took free pictures with Santa.

In March 2010, members organized a "Breakfast with the Easter Bunny" event together with the local Kiwanis Club. At this event, they provided a free meal and gifts to more than 70 children. The children enjoyed playing with volunteers and the Easter Bunny. The volunteers also did face painting for the kids. In May 2010, chapter members participated in the annual street fair at Washington & Jefferson. Guests from surrounding communities got to know the college through a variety of activities, games, music, and good food.

At **Salisbury University**, the Maryland Gamma chapter members served as ushers at the "One Maryland One Book" event of the Maryland Humanities Council in October. The students also helped with the exhibit for noted author, James McBride's presentation. His book is entitled *Song Yet Sung*. In November, the members helped to serve food and clean the area at Mrs. Dolores Cottman's annual Pre-Thanksgiving Feast in Princess Anne, Md. Mrs. Cottman and volunteers served approximately 2000 to 2200 impoverished people from the tri-county area.

In December, the members volunteered to assist the 'Jaycees', the members of the Salisbury Junior Chamber of Commerce, at their annual Children's Christmas Shopping Tour. The members helped 200 to 250 impoverished children shop for Christmas gifts at the North Salisbury Walmart.

At **Radford University**, the Virginia Epsilon chapter awarded its annual Pi Gamma Mu Scholarship to Jade Okamoto, a social-science major. The amount of the annual scholarship currently stands at just over \$1600. The chapter contributed \$1000 to the endowed scholarship fund.

The chapter undertook to raise funds to support the Measles Initiative of the American Red Cross. An appeal was made at initiation ceremonies, and a portion of chapter fees was set aside to support this cause. This was the seventh year in which the chapter has participated. The chapter was able to write a check for \$300 again for the Measles Initiative, bringing its total contribution to over \$1600.

As part of the Radford University Centennial Celebration, Dr. Samuel Walker visited the campus and participated in several events. Dr. Walker is a Pulitzer Prize-nominated author of 11 books examining crime, justice, and civil liberties. The chapter sponsored a talk given by Dr. Walker, "Presidential Speeches that Never Happened."

The chapter sponsored a panel event entitled, "A Discussion on the Social Sciences & Civil Liberties." The speakers included three faculty members from three social-science departments at Radford.

The South Carolina Theta chapter at **University of South Carolina – Aiken** had a presence at Relay for Life on campus. Two students represented Pi Gamma Mu well with their attendance at the Carolina Undergraduate Social Science Symposium to present their research.

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At **Mansfield University of Pennsylvania**, the Pennsylvania Kappa chapter had a very active year. It provided to parents the opportunity to order birthday cakes for the dorm students. This was a great service to the college community. It worked with other honor societies to do a fall food collection on campus. It provided Christmas baskets for two families covering the children's needs. It supported the "Careers in Social Science" presentation and the "Careers in Aging" program, which brought six speakers to campus to talk about the variety of careers available to social-science majors. It had a team for the Relay for Life, as well as for the campus-wide "PA Cares" program, which does community clean-up.

The Florida Eta chapter at the **University of South Florida** donated \$167 to Operation Backpack. It outfitted four children at the poorest school in their county with school supplies. It donated \$100 to Shriner's Childrens Hospital in Tampa. It bought for the hospital "McMoney" (McDonalds Gift Certificates) to be given out as rewards and birthday presents.



Heela Masood

The New York Tau chapter at **Pace University** created an *Outstanding Service Award* to be conferred annually on a chapter member by decision of alumni, advisors, and active members. The first recipient was Heela Masood for her reliable and enthusiastic service at campus events, orientation programs, and career fairs, and for tutoring/mentoring other students.

The chapter hosted the Five-Borough Model United Nations on its campus. Dr. Edward Tseng, professor of political science at California Lutheran University and mentor to the New York Tau chapter, came to the fall and spring membership-initiation ceremonies to present a series of lectures. In September he spoke on "Karl Marx and Adam Smith: An Imaginary Conversation," "International Law: Persons of Interest – Captain Hook, Bin Laden, and Others," and "Nationalism, Myth, and War." He was back in October to discuss "Ideologies in 20th Century China," "Realism and Idealism," and "Politics of Lying." He also carried on "Classroom Conversations" during September and October on "An Imaginary Conversation Between Karl Marx and Adam Smith," and "Democracy and Authoritarianism." In February he spoke on "Chinese: Their Political Socialization," "Which One Is the Evil Ideology?" and "Third World - Up Close and Personal." In March, Dr. Tseng was back to lecture on "Chinese Political Socialization – Birth of Communist China," "Equal Justice for All?" and "Two-Thirds World – Up Close and Personal" during the chapter's spring initiation ceremony.



New York Tau chapter

Dr. Richard Ottoo, professor of international finance, at the Lubin School of Business, presented a lecture on "Development, Finance, and Governance Today," in which he analyzed negatives and positives of development, finance, and government and linkages among them for Africa generally and for Uganda and East Africa specifically.

After the "Political Satire and Cartoons" workshop, the New York Tau chapter published its selected collection of political cartoons online, with a limited hard-copy printing. The photo shows the winners of the Critics' Choice and Show Time Salutes holding their certificates.

The Nebraska Delta chapter at **Wayne State College** held a campus Book and Bake Sale featuring home-baked goods provided by Pi Gamma Mu students and books donated by the Wayne community. This sale netted \$440, which is used by the chapter to support community-service projects and travel to the Pi Gamma Mu conventions. The chapter sponsored two "Graduate School Workshops" to provide information for students interested in continuing their education.



Wayne State College bowlers

Along with the Wayne State College Student Senate, the chapter members co-sponsored the 2010 Festival of Trees, a campus-wide holiday-season fundraiser founded by Pi Gamma Mu in 2004. Organizations from across campus were invited to decorate and display "themed" trees in the Student Center. Passersby "voted" for their favorite tree by donating money to each organization's tree bucket. Collected funds were then evenly distributed throughout all participating organizations and used for gift purchases requested by local families in need. Organization members delivered gifts to these families. Despite a snowstorm in the middle of the festival that closed the campus for several days, almost \$400 in gifts and presents were delivered to area families.

The chapter hosted the ever-popular social activity: "Faculty vs. Students Bowling Challenge." Approximately 25 students and faculty members were in attendance at this event. It sponsored the Student Senate debates, at which students could hear the views of the candidates running for senate positions.

It hosted a speaker, Dr. Charles Gritzner from South Dakota State University. He gave a very interesting talk defining and giving examples of "Tacky Landscapes" in human geography. It organized a "Crush on You" fundraiser at which Pi Gamma Mu members delivered Orange Crush soda cans to people on campus with an attached handwritten Valentine note. Funds raised from this event went to the local chapter of the

American Red Cross.

The Nebraska Delta chapter organized and hosted the year-end Social Sciences Banquet. The chapter planned all aspects of the banquet event including the social hour, dinner, and student entertainment. It also coordinated a ceremony for an outgoing history faculty member, Dr. Linda Taber.

## FIRST IDEAL

Salisbury University recently held a reception for history professor **Dr. Clara Small**. Dr. Small chartered the Maryland Gamma chapter of Pi Gamma Mu in 1984 and has been a member of the international Board of Trustees since 1993. She was named the recipient of the 2011 Harriet Tubman Lifetime Achievement Award from the Baltimore African American Tourism Council of Maryland. She was also recognized by Maryland's General Assembly in Annapolis on the 11th annual Harriet Ross Tubman Day of Remembrance.

According to the announcement from Salisbury University, "Dr. Small is well known in our local community for her research on the history of African-Americans on the Delmarva Peninsula, using oral history and official local and state documents. In addition to receiving the 2011 Harriet Ross Tubman Lifetime Achievement Award, Dr. Small has received the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore's Frank H. Morris Humanitarian Award, the Salisbury University Alumni Association's 2010 Service Award for the Fulton School, a 1996 Community Service Award from Wicomico County Collision for Women, and the 2007 Tee O'Conner Award from Lower Eastern Shore Heritage for Outstanding Contribution to African-American Heritage Issues, to name a few. Dr. Small also serves on the Governor's Task Force on Slavery."

Dr. Small has co-authored a new book, *Men of Color, To Arms!* This book, published in 2010, is about "Manumitted Slaves and Freed Blacks from the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland Who Served in the Civil War."



## HONORARY-DEGREE RECIPIENT



Holy Family University conferred an honorary doctor of humane letters degree on **Harry Carl Schaub, J.D.** The D.H.L. degree—the highest honor that the university grants—is presented to individuals whose contributions to the public good warrant exceptional recognition. Dr. Schaub earned a B.A. degree in political science and international relations in 1950 from the University of Pennsylvania, where he was elected to membership in Phi Beta Kappa and Pi Gamma Mu. In 1955, he earned his J.D. degree at the Yale School of Law.

Read more about Harry Schaub in the [September 2009 Newsletter](#).

## INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATE MEMBER

Pi Gamma Mu has a special category of membership: – the International Affiliate Membership. Please think about the international students and visiting faculty on your campus who might fit into this category, and consider the benefits of choosing them for this special membership.

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

Criteria for membership: Students, professors, 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.
3. A one-year subscription to the *International Social Science Review*.
4. The privilege of participating in local chapter activities, except for serving as an officer.

Cost: \$20 to be sent by the chapter to international headquarters to cover the expenses of the publications, mailings, and key.

## PI GAMMA MU PROTECTS CHAPTERS FROM UNCLE SAM

For decades, the U. S. Congress and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) had a "hands-off" policy with regard to small nonprofit organizations, such as the chapters of associations like Pi Gamma Mu. The IRS's rules allowed small nonprofit entities to self-identify as tax-exempt organizations pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and they and the IRS rarely had any contact at all. Sometimes, the only contact was the organization's one-time submission of Form SS-4, the application for an Employer Identification Number (EIN) that is required to open a checking account.



The Pension Protection Act that Congress enacted in 2006 seems to have changed that arrangement forever. That law and the rules that the IRS has promulgated pursuant to that law require *every* nonprofit organization--including the chapters of national associations--to submit an annual return. For small organizations, such as Pi Gamma Mu chapters, the return is an online "postcard" form, known as Form 990-N. This form can be filed *only* electronically online; there is no paper form that can be filled in and mailed. The necessary steps for a small organization to comply with the law and rules involve (1) application for an EIN, (2) interaction with an IRS agent so that the agent will enter the organization's name and EIN into the data base of entities that are eligible to file Form 990-N, and (3) electronic filing of Form 990-N. The experience of the officers of some of these small nonprofits, like me, is that the second step is the problematic one. IRS agents are now acting in a defensive and argumentative manner when an organizational officer calls and asks for the organization's data to be entered into the data base.

The IRS decreed that submissions of Form 990-N would begin for the 2008 calendar year or 2008-2009 fiscal year and would be due during 2009. It also decreed that any organization that was remiss in filing Form 990-N or a more elaborate version of Form 990 for three consecutive years would *lose its tax-exempt status and, therefore, be subject to the payment of income tax on its revenues thereafter!* Applying this logic to Pi Gamma Mu chapters, chapters not in compliance would be required to file an income-tax return and pay tax on its revenues, such as initiation fees! The three-year rule means that organizations that have not begun to submit returns by 2011 are now subject to the loss of their tax-exempt privilege.

While the enormous U. S. nonprofit sector seems to be in denial and disarray over these unprecedented requirements, Pi Gamma Mu is on top of the situation! Our professional-staff members--Sue Watters, executive director; Beth Biddle, office manager; and Angela Shear, chapter-development officer--have proactively applied for EINs for the chapters that didn't already have them and arranged for IRS agents to enter the chapter names and EINs into the data-base interface with the electronic reporting system for Form 990-N. The work that they have done in analyzing the IRS regulations and in implementing the compliance effort has been time-consuming and difficult. They have done this while the vast majority of similar national associations are still wondering whether they should take action.

The only remaining step is the annual submission of Form 990-N for every chapter. Ms. Watters is prepared to submit Form 990-N for *every one of our chapters* every year from now on, *but there's one catch*. Legally, Ms. Watters will be permitted to do this work for a chapter as long as the chapter confirms that it remains eligible by, for example, having an amount of revenue that does not exceed \$25,000. The instrument that a chapter will use to confirm such facts is the chapter's annual report. In the past, fewer than half of our chapters have submitted this report annually. *It now becomes unthinkable that a chapter will not report*. Ms. Watters will not be able legally to submit Form 990-N for a nonreporting chapter, placing the chapter's tax-exempt privilege at risk (not to mention placing the entire organization at risk of a penalty). The chapter annual-report form is also an online form, available on our Web site at <http://www.pigammamu.org/chapter-reporting.html>, and is easy to fill out. It is due on September 1. Every chapter sponsor should plan to submit this form during the summer. If each sponsor does this, Pi Gamma Mu will sail smoothly through these choppy waters, while other organizations fight for their very lives. None of us can afford noncompliance with these rules. It is a new world for nonprofit organizations in the United States.

On behalf of the members of the international Board of Trustees and our chapter officers, I express our appreciation to our dedicated professional staff for its responsible attention to this threat. Our staff members have spared us what I am certain would have been terrible headaches had we been caught unprepared.

By *Barry D. Friedman*  
International First Vice President

## HAVE YOU VISITED PI GAMMA MU'S WEB SITE LATELY?

If you haven't visited [Pi Gamma Mu's Web site](#) lately, you might be surprised to discover the many new features that are available for members, prospective members, and chapter officers. Two new Web pages contain descriptions of Pi Gamma Mu's benefits and services to familiarize [prospective chapter sponsors](#) and [prospective student members](#), respectively, with what our honor society is all about. Those pages are designed to encourage the development of new chapters. If you know of professors or students at colleges that don't have chapters who you think might be willing to help start a chapter, please refer them to those Web pages. Two other new Web pages present [ideas about programs and projects](#) for chapter officers and [tips and resources for chapter sponsors](#). Please look around our [Web site](#): You might find some content that will be useful to you.



## MEMBERSHIP IS AN EMPLOYMENT ADVANTAGE

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 U.S. Civil Service in 1973 and is continuing.

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. Someone with a bachelor's degree and no experience is eligible to begin work at GS-5. However, if he or she has a bachelor's degree and is a member of an honor society affiliated with the Association of College Honor Societies he or she is eligible for a GS-7 appointment. 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 \$3300.

## OPPORTUNITY FOR GIVING

Pi Gamma Mu is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation and able to accept tax-deductible donations. If you would like to make a donation to our organization in honor / memory of a professor, sponsor, loved one or friend, or to support our scholarship program, you are encouraged to do so. Pi Gamma Mu gives 10 scholarships to students going into a graduate program in social science each year. You can mail your donation to Pi Gamma Mu, 1001 Millington, Suite B, Winfield, KS 67156.

For more information, visit the Web page at <http://www.pigammamu.org/donate.html>.

## 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.