



# 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 166

January 2010

## HONOR CORDS

With graduation on the horizon for many Pi Gamma Mu members, don't forget to order your honor cords. They are royal blue and white twisted nylon cords with royal blue tassels. To get your graduation cords, send a check or money order for \$15 (which includes postage and handling) to the Pi Gamma Mu headquarters at 1001 Millington, Suite B, Winfield, KS 67156 or phone headquarters (620-221-3128) and give us your credit card number; we will put them in the mail right away.

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## A BIG ANNOUNCEMENT: PI GAMMA MU HAS A CAFEPRESS STOREFRONT!

Pi Gamma Mu now has a CafePress storefront! You can choose from a large selection of items with the Pi Gamma Mu logo on them. Proudly display your affiliation with Pi Gamma Mu on shirts, hoodies, clocks, babies and puppies clothing, steins, teddy bears and more. Check out the great selection of items at <http://www.cafepress.com/PiGammaMu>.

At the annual Board of Trustees meeting last October, the In-House Publications and Web Site Committees recommended that we look into the possibility of establishing a storefront where members could select from a variety of items to purchase. Student trustee Michaela Dolphin suggested CafePress. A committee was established which consisted of Michaela, President Gordon Mercer, First Vice President Barry Friedman and Executive Director Sue Watters (with design support from our webmaster, Brian Booth, and design advice from past chancellor Randy Bertolas).



## RESEARCH FOR THE 2010 PI GAMMA MU MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY PROJECT HAS BEGUN!

Work on the upcoming *Pi Gamma Mu Members Today* publication project is well underway, and we are trying to reach everyone by mail and/or phone to update members' information for the publication.

Designed to be a definitive reference for Pi Gamma Mu, the publication will make it easy for you to reconnect with members everywhere. Complete listings for each respondent will include academic, professional and personal information (at your discretion). Additionally, the publication will include a "Through the Years" photo gallery of members. Feel free to participate by submitting your photos and essays!

The Pi Gamma Mu Directory of all lifetime members will honor those included and will be invaluable as a networking tool for those employed in and those seeking employment in selected professions.

## HAITI'S EARTHQUAKE: PERSPECTIVE OF PAST STUDENT TRUSTEE NILDA PYRONNEAU



I am originally from Haiti and am a former Pi Gamma Mu student trustee. Pi Gamma Mu has always been a great supporter of Haiti, long before Haiti was on the front pages of every newspaper in the world.

Ten years ago, Pi Gamma Mu held a regional conference at the University of South Florida where I attended school. At that time, I was an international Pi Gamma Mu board member. I coordinated with the Haitian club on campus, known as Club Creole, to give a presentation on the Haitian culture. The presentation included singing, dancing, and poetry. As a social science organization, Pi Gamma Mu has supported Haiti and also helped fund a school in a small village in Haiti.

On January 12, 2010, Haiti was devastated by a disastrous earthquake that registered 7.0 on the Richter scale, leaving the Haitian population in need of global aide. The dreadful disaster has reduced Haiti to ruins and left many dead and homeless.

The earthquake has personally affected my family. The earthquake claimed the life of my uncle. His house collapsed on him on the first day of the earthquake. He did not get a chance to escape.

In conclusion, I trust that the Haitian people can find hope, peace, and happiness as they put their lives and their country back together.

*Nilda Pyronneau*

## SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



The scholarship award is a time-honored tradition of Pi Gamma Mu. This award has been in use since the early days of the organization. Once a year chapters have the privilege of awarding such a medal to a person who has distinguished him/herself in the social sciences. It has usually been given to an outstanding student as a prize for scholarship and/or service. However, it may also go to some other person deserving recognition in this field or to a faculty officer of a Pi Gamma Mu chapter.

Finished in gold plate, the award is available to chapters at a cost of \$20. The name of the recipient and the date will be engraved without additional charge. You can order from Pi Gamma Mu headquarters.

[Pi Gamma Mu Order Form](#)

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Years of Progress

As we move toward the final months of chapter membership ceremonies and inductions for 2009-2010, we wanted to thank Pi Gamma Mu faculty advisers and students for the continued progress. These past two years have been more challenging due to the economic recession and budget constraints on most campuses. We were pleased, when during the 2008-2009 academic year, memberships were up over 247 members from the previous year and active chapters remained near 150 chapters, which represented a substantial increase in reactivated and new chapters in recent years. We were worried as most campuses and students went through difficult economic challenges and we are very pleased with the continued success of our mission to honor outstanding students.

This year we have experienced continued progress, as we began the challenge of continued effective communication with members through our electronic newsletter, which goes to far more lifetime members than previous newsletters. We continue to place a high priority on staying in touch with chapters and responding promptly to make sure you get membership certificates and honor cords in a timely manner. Our Pi Gamma Mu International Honor Society's Webpage is continually updated as another important method of communication. We have received favorable comments on the headline feature of our webpage. Please see our webpage to order your Pi Gamma Mu Honor Cords for graduation.

Very importantly, Pi Gamma Mu International Honor Society has entered a contract with Harris Connect to prepare a Pi Gamma Mu Directory of all lifetimes members. In order for the directory to be completed, you need to respond to Harris Connect and indicate that you want to be included in the directory. If enough members respond, the directory will be an important way of honoring members, an important resource for networking, and will provide chapters with a way of contacting their life-time members. Harris Connect will contact you by phone, card, or email but mostly by postcard. The Pi Gamma Mu Directory of life-time members is a project that we have wanted for many decades and it is up to us to make this project a success. It is exciting to be going through a period of progress in our history and thanks for your efforts to make this happen.

*Gordon Mercer*

Pi Gamma Mu International President

## STUDENT REP RAP

When I sat down to write this article, I contemplated all of the programs at various schools in various cities being sought by various individuals from various backgrounds; how could I write an article on graduate school and account for all of these variations? Then I thought deeper about my own experiences, and what I have heard from others in similar situations, and came up with a few suggestions that might apply to anyone undertaking the transition from undergraduate life to graduate life. "A few" might even be an overstatement; I was able to narrow down my thoughts into two essential recommendations for all who are entering graduate school.



First and foremost, find a program that you like, if not love. I know it might still be difficult to determine what it is that you actually enjoy, but really think through this suggestion. When it comes to working a job, one can better justify working a lackluster job to avoid unemployment or earn an income, and that is understandable; however, when it comes to graduate school, you are often undertaking debt to follow this path. It is a lot easier to find yourself in a mental ditch if you do not truly enjoy the program you are pursuing, especially when you consider the other options that might not be as financially straining. As an economics student, I can't help but make a point about monetary incentives, but there are issues even beyond the green. Graduate studies can slowly move outside of a typical 9-to-5 work schedule. You will be devoting an immense amount of time and effort, and even if you escape from the classes, homework, tests, and readings will be on your mind constantly. You will be surrounded by other people who are in love with the subjects you are studying and you will soon find yourself telling those cheesy niche jokes that you swore you would never sink to telling. If you enter a program that you really do not like, you might find it difficult to stay on task, keep up with the work, and find motivation to put in a lot of effort.

Secondly, be adventurous. This applies to every part of graduate life. You might end up in a new town, surrounded by new people, and studying new topics. Explore your surroundings. Along with being adventurous, have an open mind on your journeys. Graduate school has the ability to attract a lot of specialized, well-read individuals who will have an opinion on everything, as well as individuals who grew up in different cultures and speaking different languages. Listen to their opinions and explore their beliefs; you might learn a thing yourself. This exploration will open your mind and help you in your research. Graduate school will finally be your time to apply everything you have experienced and learned to create dissertations, theses, publications, and research; now is your time to create something that future college students will cite in their essays and papers.

Keep these considerations on your mind as you pass from undergraduate to graduate life. They might sound off-base right now, but you will soon understand why I narrowed down this article into these two suggestions.

*Mark Bender*

Student Trustee

# GRANT AND SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

## THE NATIONAL SECURITY EDUCATION PROGRAM

### INSTITUTE FOR EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

### ACADEMIC STUDIES ABROAD

### JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR TALENTED YOUTH

### BRITISH STUDIES PROGRAM

1. International experience is crucial to a competitive resume and to develop skills to work in the global arena. **THE NATIONAL SECURITY EDUCATION PROGRAM (NSEP)** David L. Boren Undergraduate Scholarships are intended to provide support to U.S. undergraduates who will pursue the study of languages and cultures currently underrepresented in study abroad and critical to U.S. national security.

NSEP focuses on geographic areas, languages, and fields of study deemed critical to U.S. national security. It draws on a broad definition of national security applied by the President in his annual National Security Strategy, recognizing that the scope of national security has expanded to include not only the traditional concerns of protecting and promoting American well-being, but also the challenges of global society, including: sustainable development, environmental degradation, global disease and hunger, population growth and migration, and economic competitiveness.

The NSEP service requirement stipulates that an award recipient work in the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security, State, or the Intelligence Community. There is also an expectation that NSEP Scholars will use the language or regional expertise acquired as a result of the award in their work for the U.S. government.

Additional information and an online application are available at the NSEP Web site: [www.iae.org](http://www.iae.org). To contact the NSEP office by mail: National Security Education Program, David L. Boren Undergraduate Scholarships, Institute of International Education, 1400 K Street NW, Washington, DC 20005, or call 800-618-NSEP or e-mail: [nsep@iae.org](mailto:nsep@iae.org).

You might also want to check out the IIEPassport materials which help students find the right program and provide advisors with tools to help counsel students and promote study abroad. The IIEPassport Study Abroad Directories and the online search engine [www.IIEPassport.org](http://www.IIEPassport.org) include detailed information on more than 7500 study abroad programs worldwide. The online search engine at [www.StudyAbroadFunding.org](http://www.StudyAbroadFunding.org) allows you to search by country or subject to find the study abroad funding information that you need.

2. **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 Web site, [www.achsnatl.org](http://www.achsnatl.org) or [www.ielnet.org](http://www.ielnet.org).

3. The **ACADEMIC STUDIES ABROAD** programs for summer and fall 2010, held in Ireland, Spain, France, Italy and England, Argentina, Chile and Costa Rica are soliciting applications. ASA offers summer, trimester, semester and academic year study abroad programs. Academic Studies Abroad is a leader in affordable study abroad programs that allow students to earn college credits while abroad. Students come from all over the United States and from over 300 colleges and universities. Prices and deadlines vary – check the Web site for more information: [www.academicstudies.com](http://www.academicstudies.com) or call 888-845-4272.

4. **JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR TALENTED YOUTH** has a summer program designed to inspire young people by offering distinctive educational opportunities that nurture intellectual abilities, advance academic achievement, and enhance personal development for students from the second to the seventh grade who are very bright.

Instructional assistants are college students with a commitment to education and an understanding of the particular challenges of working with students in an intense environment. You can earn \$1100 per 3-week session. Room and board are provided at residential sites where each staff member gets his/her own room in a college residence hall.

Session 1: June 27 - July 16, 2010

Session 2: July 18 - August 6, 2010

While application consideration begins in January, there is no cutoff date. The program continues to hire on an as-needed basis through the beginning of the programs. However, the earlier that it receive your application, the more likely it will be that there is an available position that matches your interest and experience.

The 2010 CTY Summer Employment Application is available online at [www.cty.jhu.edu/summer](http://www.cty.jhu.edu/summer). If you have questions about summer employment with CTY, write to [ctysummer@jhu.edu](mailto:ctysummer@jhu.edu), call 410-735-6185 or check out the Web site for more details: [www.jhu.edu/gifted/ctysummer](http://www.jhu.edu/gifted/ctysummer).

**5. BRITISH STUDIES PROGRAM** - In July 2010 students will once again have the opportunity to study **political science** in **London** through a 4-week course offered by the **British Studies Program**.

**The program is offered July 1 – August 1, 2010.** Each of the 20 courses offered carries six hours of undergraduate or graduate credit from The University of Southern Mississippi, a fully accredited institution of higher learning. Southern Miss offers the program through a consortium of 14 United States colleges and universities, and each year 150-200 students from across the United States take part in British Studies. Credit is transferable; the program recommends that you check with your home institution regarding its policies for credit transfer.

Students participating in the **political science** course examine major contemporary issues facing the world community and the activities undertaken by international organizations to address them. Through a series of lectures and site visits in London and a field trip to Brussels and Paris, the course explores global topics such as armed conflict, terrorism, poverty, human rights, economic development, international trade and climate change. The important and unique role played by Great Britain in the international community makes London a hub for global politics and an ideal location to examine these critical issues. This course offers students an exciting opportunity to learn about important global issues while interacting with prominent policy makers and representatives from leading international organizations.

The **British Studies Program** stays in central London at **King's College** in one of its dormitories. The rooms are small, but everyone gets a private room with fridge and private bath. Everyone has access to a shared kitchen and the dorm has a large courtyard which serves as a social center of the program. Participants quickly make friends with the students in their class as well as students from across the country. The dorm is on Stamford Street, approximately 100 yards from Waterloo Station. The central location puts you just a few minutes' walk from Trafalgar Square, Leicester Square, and the theater district. Most people walk when they're headed to central London because it's so close.

The cost for the program is \$5799 for undergraduates and \$5999 for graduates. This price includes tuition, air travel, housing, and academic travel, including a 4-day trip outside London to places such as Edinburgh, Paris, Normandy, and Brussels. Qualified students can usually get financial aid just as if this were a course you were taking in the United States. You apply through your local financial aid office. The International Programs office at Southern Miss is happy to provide you with information and assistance regarding financial aid and credit transfer.

Feel free to contact the office with any questions regarding this course or the program in general. For more information about the program visit its Web site: <http://www.britishstudiesprogram.org>

## CHAPTER SERVICE PROJECTS



The Missouri Omicron chapter at **Evangel University** had another busy year. In order to make its name known beyond the Social Science Department, it met at least monthly with its "Fireside Chats," at which students from various majors, political persuasions, and faiths are able to discuss and debate their ideas in a mutually respectful manner. Topics for these events range anywhere from "should government legislate morality" to "Russia's influence on international relations and affairs."

The Missouri Omicron chapter had several officers attend a student leadership conference in Washington D.C., and participate in a week of exciting events related to President Barack Obama's inauguration. They were able to meet with several White House officials and members of the transition team. Students were able to witness firsthand the legacy of the peaceful transition of power. One of the highlights of the trip was an extended visit with U. S. Representative Todd Tiahrt,

R-Kan., who is an Evangel University alum (class of 1975).

This year the chapter was able to host a bonfire that was open to students of all majors. It was a successful night that ended with recruitment of new members. The chapter hosted a History Symposium at which graduating history majors were able to present their research projects. The symposium was so well attended, it will continue annually.

The California Omicron chapter at **Mt. St. Mary's College** held donation drives in support of a local Food Bank.

At **Barry University**, the Florida Theta chapter held a fundraiser and awareness raiser for homelessness by hosting a university-wide discussion and showing of the film "Dark Days" (about homelessness). It also sold baked goods at this event to raise money for a homeless organization. One of the students in this chapter was able to convince the university to give a sizable check to this organization to help the homeless in Miami Shores.

In order to get more political discussion on politics, the North Carolina Lambda chapter at **Western Carolina University** worked with radio station WFSC to have three interviews played on local radio. The interviews were done by chapter sponsor and Pi Gamma Mu international president Gordon Mercer, and involved Western Carolina University faculty as follows:

1. New North Carolina Politics - an interview on a new book by Gibbs Knotts and Chris Cooper on trends and data on North Carolina politics.
2. 2009 Presidential Campaign - an interview of presidential specialist Don Livingston during the primaries.
3. 2009 President Obama's Performance - an interview with presidential course faculty member Don Livingston.

## **ACHS MEMBERSHIP PROTECTS THE LEGITIMACY OF HONORSOCIETIES**



Pi Gamma Mu is one of 68 members of the Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS), which is the authority on standards and definitions for the honor society movement. ACHS has stepped up efforts to alert the higher education community to the standards of traditional honor societies. In contrast, some new so-called honor societies exist online and allow self-nomination, accepting fees with no questions asked. If in doubt about an organization, you can check out the ACHS Web site [list of honor societies that are members](#).

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