

Pi Gamma Mu News

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SAVE THE DATE!

**Join Us to Celebrate Pi Gamma Mu's 100th Anniversary in Philadelphia,
Pennsylvania!**

November 1-3, 2024

The Pi Gamma Mu Convention Committee is thrilled to announce that the 2024 Pi Gamma Mu Triennial International Convention will be held on **Friday, November 1, 2024, through Sunday, November 3, 2024, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.** Plan to join us in the *City of Brotherly Love* in 2024 to be a part of Pi Gamma Mu's *centennial celebration!*

Events will include student research paper presentations, student and chapter poster sessions, an event celebrating Pi Gamma Mu's centennial year, student elections to the Board of Trustees, the very popular Leadership Development Program (space is limited), keynote speakers, roundtable discussion groups, and much more. Current student members, alumni members, and faculty sponsors of Pi Gamma Mu are encouraged to attend.

The Convention Committee is chaired by Prof. Kathy Im of the University of Maryland Global Campus and Second Vice President of Pi Gamma Mu.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the **Double Tree by Hilton Center City Philadelphia** with a room rate of no more than \$204/night. The rooms include two queen beds and attendees comfortable sharing rooms are welcome to do so.

Stay tuned for more details about the convention!

SPEAKERS ANNOUNCED FOR 2023-2024 PI GAMMA MU SPEAKER SERIES

Pi Gamma Mu International Honor Society in Social Sciences is continuing its popular online Speaker Series for a second year. The 2023-2024 speakers will be James Wojtowicz of Rider University, Johanna Bishop of Wilmington University, Richard Gregory Johnson III of The University of San Francisco, and Steven Burkarth & Deirdre Condit of Virginia Commonwealth University.

Pi Gamma Mu International Honor Society in Social Sciences is continuing its popular online Speaker Series for a second year and is pleased to announce the upcoming speakers for 2023-2024. The series spotlights the research interests and expertise of Pi Gamma Mu's faculty chapter sponsors and is free of charge. The 2023-2024 speakers will be James Wojtowicz of Rider University, Johanna Bishop of Wilmington University, Richard Gregory Johnson III of The University of San Francisco, and Steven Burkarth & Deirdre Condit of Virginia Commonwealth University.

The series was launched on September 30, 2022. During the 2022-2023 academic year, four speakers presented on a variety of topics relevant to the social sciences. Due to the popularity of the series, the Pi Gamma Mu Board of Trustees decided to continue the program for another year. The four sessions will be held online and ZOOM links will be made available at a later date.

The second session this year will feature Johanna Bishop, faculty chapter sponsor of the Delaware Beta Chapter at Wilmington University, and the Pi Gamma Mu Governor for Delaware. Dr. Bishop will present on the topic of Human Trafficking On January 26, 2024. Dr. Bishop is the Director of Behavioral Science Programs at Wilmington University. She manages the undergraduate Behavioral Science Program, the graduate Human Services program, and several undergraduate and graduate certificate programs. In 2016 Dr. Bishop founded the annual Human Trafficking Symposium and now organizes monthly human trafficking webinars open and free to the public. She attended George Washington University, Wilmington College, and Central Michigan University.

On Wednesday, May 3, 2024, Richard Gregory Johnson III, of the University of San Francisco, will speak about Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Dr. Johnson is the chapter faculty sponsor of the California Tau Chapter of Pi Gamma Mu at the University of San Francisco and is the Governor of California for Pi Gamma Mu. He is a tenured Full Professor for the University of San Francisco's School of Management. He is also the Director of the Business Minor in the School of Management. Dr. Johnson holds degrees from Georgetown University, Golden Gate University, and DePaul University.

The final session in this year's series will feature two speakers: Steven Burkarth and Deirdre Condit of Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). Burkarth is the president of the VCU Alumni Political Science Caucus and is a volunteer assisting with the Virginia Nu Chapter of Pi Gamma Mu. Dr. Condit is an Associate Professor of political science in the College of Humanities and Sciences at VCU and is the sponsor of the Pi Gamma Mu Chapter. She earned her bachelor's degree from Idaho State University, attended Portland State University, and completed her MA and PhD in Political Science at Rutgers University in New Jersey. Prof. Burkarth and Dr. Condit had such a successful launch of the new chapter at VCU that they were invited to speak about the secrets of their success in their presentation on Launching a Successful Pi Gamma Mu Membership Drive.

Details and links to the online Zoom sessions will be available at <https://pigammamu.org/speaker-series.html>

2023 CHAPTER HONOR ROLLS

Each year, the Pi Gamma Mu International Board of Trustees recognizes Pi Gamma Mu's most active chapters by placing them on the annual Roll of Distinction (the highest award for chapters), Roll of Merit, and Incentive Chapters (or honorable mention).

The Rolls are the result of the Awards Committee's evaluation of the annual reports filed by 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 board. This includes chapter organization and participation by faculty members and students, election and initiation of members, and financial responsibility. Local initiatives in developing new activities or methods of operation are considered.

Roll of Distinction

Nebraska Delta, Wayne State College, Randy Bertolas & Jean Karlen

Kansas Theta, Newman University, Larry Heck

Louisiana Eta, Grambling State University, Frances Staten

Hawaii Alpha, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Lorey Takahashi & Ulla Hasager

California Kappa, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, Kristen Conway-Gomez & Kelly Huh

Pennsylvania Alpha Rho, Immaculata University, Joshua Weikert

Maryland Theta, University of Maryland Global Campus, Katherine Im

Roll of Merit

Mississippi Eta, Alcorn State University, Antrina Bell

West Virginia Iota, American Military University / American Public University, Allison G. S. Knox

District of Columbia Alpha, Catholic University of America, Abby Adler Mandel

Tennessee Lambda, Cumberland University, Tara Mielnik & Rachael Bible

Georgia Mu, Emmanuel University, Robert J. Fulton, Jr.

Incentive Chapters

Vermont Gamma, Castleton University, Scott Roper & Paul Derby

New York Iota, Mercy College, Dorothy Balancio

New Jersey Delta, Rider University, Brook Hunter & James Wojtowicz

Kansas Alpha, Southwestern College, Cheryl Rude & Jacob Goodson

Virginia Nu, Virginia Commonwealth University, Deirdre M. Condit & Steven Burkarth

APPLICATIONS FOR GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS DUE FEBRUARY 15

Each year, Pi Gamma Mu awards scholarships to outstanding members. These scholarships are intended for the first or second year of graduate work in the social sciences. If you are interested in applying, you should start putting your information together now. Applications must be fully completed on or before February 15. Winners will be notified in the spring, with the grants awarded during the following fall semester. Please check the Pi Gamma Mu website for information and application instructions <http://www.pigammamu.org/scholarships.html>

2023 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

After much deliberation on the part of the Pi Gamma Mu Awards Committee, the committee's chairperson recommended 8 scholarship recipients and 3 alternates for awards totaling \$11,000 to the Board of Trustees in 2023. The Trustees awarded scholarships to the following lifetime members of Pi Gamma Mu:

Tara Sutton received the \$2,000 Carroll Parish Scholarship. Tara was inducted into Pi Gamma Mu at the Hawaii Alpha Chapter at The University of Hawai'i–Mānoa. Dr. Lorey Takhashi and Asst. Prof. Ulla Hasager are the faculty sponsors of the chapter.

Completing her undergraduate studies at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa with degrees in Communicology, Anthropology, and Ethnic Studies, Tara is continuing her educational journey there as a Master's student in the Department of Geography and Environment. Her academic aspirations were ignited after life adventures that included raising children in Alaska's demanding conditions, diverse employment roles from bakeries to prison systems, and a deep-rooted curiosity about how people communicate and interact. These rich life experiences have shaped her into a dedicated researcher with a strong focus on community involvement. Currently a member of the Red Hill Task Force, Tara investigates the social outcomes of the Red Hill water contamination and plans to extend this research in her future Ph.D. program. She credits her family's steadfast

support and her multifaceted life experiences for shaping her academic interests and career goals. Tara values her Pi Gamma Mu membership, acknowledging it as a driving force for both academic and real-world pursuits. This scholarship serves as both a validation of her efforts and a stepping stone towards achieving her broader research goals examining the element of trust between institutions and communities after periods of environmental contamination.

Olivia Jade Camarena received the \$2,000 Effie B. Urquhart Scholarship. Olivia was inducted into Pi Gamma Mu at the Kansas Theta Chapter at Newman University. Dr. C. Laurence (Larry) Heck is the sponsor of the chapter. She was president of Pi Gamma Mu for over two years during the COVID-19 pandemic. During her time at Newman, she learned how to be a leader, the gift of responsibility, and how to work as a team player.

Olivia is working on her Master of Social Welfare at the University of Kansas, focusing on macro social work practice. She is fascinated by the world around her and loves to study, research, and learn more about how she can create policies or programs to help the homeless population in her local area as well as volunteering regularly at local charities and food banks.

Olivia wants to thank her family and Dr. Heck, as their constant support played a huge role in her success, as well as her cat Tuti. Olivia is following in the footsteps of her father Carlos, as he attended the same master's program in 1989 and is hoping to continue her family legacy after graduation in May of 2025.

Julia Queen received the \$2,000 Marvel Stockwell Scholarship. Julia was inducted into Pi Gamma Mu at the Maryland Theta Chapter at The University of Maryland Global Campus. Prof. Katherine (Kathy) Im is the faculty sponsor of the chapter. Julia was accepted into the Master's degree program in Counseling Psychology at Bowie State University. She was thrilled to start classes in the fall of 2023.

Maria del Alba Clara "Clara" Sherwood received the \$1,000 Gordon E. Mercer Scholarship. Clarawas inducted into Pi Gamma Mu at the Pennsylvania Alpha Omicron Chapter at Washington & Jefferson College in 2022. Dr. Zheya Gai and Dr. Anudeep Gill are the faculty sponsors of the chapter.

Clara graduated summa cum laude from Washington & Jefferson College with a triple major in International Studies, Spanish, and "Music & Conflict Resolution" (self-designed, thematic major). Clara is currently a New Voices on Nuclear Weapons Fellow at the Federation of American Scientists and a former US Fulbright Grantee to Morocco. An experienced research, public relations, and communications intern for U.S. Government programs and think tanks focused on diplomacy and security, she recently began her graduate program at George Washington University where she is studying international affairs and Arabic. Clara has worked and studied in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa, and is currently researching the role non-governmental entities play in the intersection between nuclear escalation, crisis management, and digital narratives.

Kyle Jedlicka received the \$1,000 Daniel E. Quigley Law Scholarship. Kyle was inducted into Pi Gamma Mu at the Nebraska Delta Chapter at Wayne State College. Dr. Randy Bertolas and Dr. Jean Karlen are the faculty sponsors of the chapter.

Kyle is a J.D. candidate at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Law. At Nebraska Law, he is involved with the Student Bar Association, St. Thomas Moore Society, and the Federalist Society. Kyle graduated from Wayne State College in May of 2023 with majors in Political Science and Criminal Justice and a minor in Pre-Law. Before Law School, he previously worked for the Nebraska Governor's Office and the Colfax County Attorney's Office. Kyle credits Pi Gamma Mu for furthering his academic career through his participation in the 2021 Pi Gamma Mu International Conference as a student presenter and through the generous scholarship he received. He plans to practice constitutional law after graduating from Nebraska Law in May of 2026.

Sophia G. Widdekind received a \$1,000 scholarship. Sophie was inducted into Pi Gamma Mu at the New York Sigma Chapter at LeMoyne College. Dr. Jeffrey Chin is the faculty sponsor of the chapter.

Sophia completed her A.A.S. in Mechanical Technology in Winter 2019, her B.A. in Psychology in Spring 2023, and is currently attending Syracuse University for her M.A. in Marriage and Family Therapy through Falk College. Sophia is an active member of the Trans Team and is interested in specializing in gender-affirming care. Outside of school her interests include singing and art.

Ravyn Hicks received a \$1,000 scholarship. Ravyn was inducted into Pi Gamma Mu at the Maryland Theta Chapter at the University of Maryland Global Campus. Prof. Katherine (Kathy) Im is the faculty sponsor of the chapter.

Ravyn is a Logistics Analyst with General Dynamics. Her daughter, Jenesis, will be two in January. Jenesis is signed with two agencies and competes in pageants. Ravyn also has a three year old Puggle named Xan. Ravyn hopes to enter a Master of Education in Clinical Mental Health Counseling upon completion of this current MA in Forensic Psychology through the University of North Dakota. She hopes to, then, gain licensure as an LCPC, and as a long-term goal, become a Forensic Psychologist.

Jacqueline "Jackie" Marie Dimalanta received a \$1,000 scholarship. Jacqueline was inducted into Pi Gamma Mu at the Philippine Alpha Chapter at The University of the Philippines. Prof. Maria Fe Villamejor-Mendoza is one of the faculty sponsors of the chapter.

Jackie earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of the Philippines-Diliman in 2022. Following this accomplishment, she gained admission to the university's Direct Ph.D. in Psychology program, specializing in Clinical Psychology. As a dedicated clinical psychologist in training, Jackie aspires to advance her advocacy for enhancing the accessibility of mental health services for all. In addition to her Ph.D. studies, she actively contributes as a research assistant, peer support volunteer, and engagement specialist for mental health professionals. During her

leisure time, Jackie finds joy in mindfully connecting with nature, playing with her pets, and creating music.

Sadie M. Harris was selected to receive a \$1,000 scholarship, but declined due to a change in her plans. An alternate was selected to receive the scholarship. Sadie joined Pi Gamma Mu through the Nebraska Theta Chapter at Midland University. Dr. Megan Nielsen is the faculty sponsor of the Chapter.

Due to family matters Sadie was unable to attend law school this semester as planned, but with all things back to normal for her family she has submitted law school applications for the Fall 2024 semester. She anticipates hearing back soon. She is currently working at Foulston Siefkin LLP as a Legal Assistant to stay in touch with the legal world as she waits.

Emily Barylske was selected to receive a \$1,000 scholarship, but declined due to a change in her plans. An alternate was selected to receive the scholarship. Emily joined Pi Gamma Mu through the Illinois Pi Chapter at McKendree University. Dr. Michael Hahn is the faculty sponsor of the Chapter.

Emily is planning to go into missionary work for 2 years with the Southern Baptist IMB; as long as her interviewing process is successful. Currently, during her off time from Graduate School, she works as a Project Coordinator at Dometic located in Litchfield, IL. She has helped Dometic with their interior and exterior designing process, and it has made her reconsider my Grad School plans as well to consider Project Management. She finds that her bachelor of arts degrees has helped her in the business world to be able to understand people and also think outside the box more. She finds that McKendree University has set her on the right path for life post-graduation, and she still keeps in contact with some of her professors to discuss life plans and to get advice from them.

Melissa-Hong Thuy Kieu was recommended as an alternate to receive a scholarship if one became available due to another selected student declining the award. No award became available for Melissa, although her success is recognized by her selection as an alternate. Melissa was inducted into Pi Gamma Mu at the Kansas Lambda Chapter at Wichita State University.