

Pi Gamma Mu News

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2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

After much deliberation on the part of the Pi Gamma Mu Awards Committee, the committee's chairperson recommended 6 scholarship recipients and 2 alternates for awards totaling \$15,000 to the Board of Trustees in 2024. The Trustees awarded the scholarships of \$2,500 each to the following lifetime members of Pi Gamma Mu:



Andrea Rocelle Balingit received a \$2,500 scholarship. Andrea was inducted into Pi Gamma Mu at the Philippine Alpha Chapter at the University of the Philippines. Dr. Maria Fe Villamejor-Mendoza is the faculty sponsor of the chapter.

Andrea earned her degree in Bachelor of Arts (History-Sociology) from the University of the Philippines Visayas in 2024. She took part in the Cultural Mapping of Panay and Guimaras, a project under her alma mater. With an interest in creative writing, she has published her works in local and international literary journals. As a daughter of a former Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW), which enabled her to live abroad for 4 years, Andrea developed an interest in pursuing a career in diplomacy. This has also catapulted her interest in culture, history, and society.

Andrea is currently enrolled in graduate school at the University of the Philippines and planning to work in the field of diplomacy.

Alfee Rubayet received the \$2,500 Gordon Mercer Scholarship. Alfee was inducted into the Pennsylvania Mu Chapter at Franklin and Marshall College. Alan S. Glazer, CPA is the faculty sponsor of the chapter.

Alfee Rubayet is an aspiring scholar, development practitioner, and lifelong artist. She is currently pursuing an MA in International Development at American University's School of International Service, a globally top-10 program in international affairs. Alfee graduated summa cum laude in 2024 from Franklin & Marshall College with a BA in Economics (honors) and Government, along with a Social Justice Certificate. Her academic excellence earned her departmental honors for outstanding work in both economics and political theory. Additionally, Alfee is a 2024 Humanity in Action Fellow, having spent the summer in Copenhagen exploring human rights and climate change with leading activists, scholars, scientists, and NGOs.



Drawing on her identity as a Bangladeshi in the U.S. and her robust skill set in both qualitative and quantitative methodologies, Alfee has undertaken two significant projects over the past year: developing an index to quantitatively measure racial disparities across the U.S. and conducting qualitative research on the pandemic's impact on female garment workers in Bangladesh. These experiences, combined with her upbringing, have deepened her understanding of systemic inequalities and their role in marginalization. Through her MA, Alfee aims to bridge research and policy work to enhance development projects focused on gender and labor.

As an artist, Alfee's work—spanning watercolor, acrylic, charcoal, and digital mediums—has been exhibited in seven galleries and fundraisers in Bangladesh and the UK. She is deeply committed to advancing global justice through research, policy, and art.



Trie Yale received a \$2,500 scholarship. Trie was inducted into Pi Gamma Mu at the New Hampshire Beta Chapter at St. Anselm College. Dr. Kevin Doran is the faculty sponsor of the chapter.

After completing her bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and minor in Sociology at Saint Anselm College, Trie chose to pursue a master's degree in Criminal Justice. The summer before her senior year, she interned

at the Portland, Maine Police Department. As a foot patrol officer, she worked closely with the homeless community. It was at the conclusion of her internship that she realized her passion for assisting the homeless on a larger scale. She spent the spring semester of her senior year researching police-run homeless outreach programs and volunteering at a local homeless shelter for veterans. As graduation approached, she was offered the opportunity to spearhead a new Aftercare Specialist position at this particular shelter. Since then, she has worked to fulfill my passion of helping veterans in the community, and she is thrilled for what the future at this organization holds. As she is completing her master's degree at Saint Anselm College, she is also working as a Teaching Assistant for the head of the Criminal Justice Department. She is looking forward to implementing the knowledge and experience gained at Saint Anselm in the real world!

Lydia Smith received the \$2,500 Marvel Stockwell Scholarship. Lydia was inducted into Pi Gamma Mu at the District of Columbia Alpha Chapter at the Catholic University of America in 2023 and was president of the chapter during her first year. Dr. Christina Sharkey is the faculty sponsor of the chapter.



Lydia is working on her doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology at the Catholic University of America, with a focus in Children, Families, and Cultures. Her research interests center on how mindfulness and self-compassion improve relationships, communication, and well-being. She is invested in racial justice and developing mindfulness- and compassion-based interventions that are culturally relevant for Black, Indigenous, and people of color. Clinically, Lydia is gaining experience working with multicultural clients with trauma histories and she intends to specialize in family, couples, and group therapy.

Lydia wants to thank her parents, brother, friends, academic mentors, and cat, Cheddar, for their invariable support and encouragement. This achievement is shared with them.



Frances Cooke received the \$2,500 Effie B. Urquhart Scholarship. Frances was inducted into Pi Gamma Mu at the District of Columbia Alpha Chapter at the Catholic University of America chapter and is the current chapter President. Dr. Christina Sharkey is the faculty sponsor of the chapter.

Frances completed her B.A. in Psychological and Brain Sciences at the George Washington University in 2019. Her academic journey continues as a current second-year Ph.D. student in Clinical Psychology at Catholic University. Prior to starting her graduate training, Frances was a Clinical Research Coordinator at Children's National Hospital in Washington, DC. She worked on research with youth with food allergy and diabetes, and with patients in the inpatient psychiatric unit. Some of her research interests include anxiety disorders, caregiver-child relationships, health

disparities, and intervention development for youth with medical conditions. Her career goal is to work as a pediatric psychologist in a pediatric academic medical center.

Takuto Yoshii received a \$2,500 scholarship. Takuto was inducted into Pi Gamma Mu at the California Chi Chapter at SOKA University of America. Prof. Esther Chang is the faculty sponsor of the chapter.

Takuto completed his undergraduate studies at Soka University of America, concentrating on social and behavioral sciences and focusing on educational policy and economics. His senior thesis paper analyzes the effect of a new income-contingent loan (ICL) policy on student loan lending and enrollment rates in Japan. At the Master of Economics & Policy at King's College, he wants to learn how to accurately evaluate policies and comprehend the elements of effective public policy in education.

He is grateful for the support from his parents and his professors at Soka University of America, especially Dr. Liu and Dr. Mazumder. Takuto said, "Without forgetting this thankful feeling, I will continue my studies, and in the future, I aim to design effective education policies that facilitate and encourage students to attend university without bearing significant financial burdens."



ALTERNATES

The following lifetime members were selected as Alternates to receive a scholarship if one of the recipients were to decline. Although they did not receive a scholarship, their success should be recognized and commended.

Zanela Denise Bajarias was selected as an Alternate. She was inducted into Pi Gamma Mu at the Philippine Alpha Chapter at the University of the Philippines where she studied Political Science. Dr. Maria Fe Villamejor-Mendoza is the faculty sponsor of the chapter.

Ray Hagihara was selected as an Alternate. He was inducted into Pi Gamma Mu at the California Chi Chapter at Soka University of America where he studied Economics. Prof. Esther Chang is the faculty sponsor of the Chapter.

2024 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.

2024 Roll of Distinction

Louisiana Eta, Grambling State University, Dr. Frances Staten, Dr. Lemmy Akoma, Inetha Wimberly

Maryland Theta, University of Maryland Global Campus, Dr. Katherine Im

Nebraska Delta, Wayne State College, Dr. Randy Bertolas, Dr. Jean Karlen, Dr. Lisa Nelson

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

Iowa Gamma, Univ of Northern Iowa, Dr. Jennifer McNabb

Philippine Alpha, University of the Philippines, Prof. Maria Fe Villamejor-Mendoza

2024 Roll of Merit

North Carolina Omega, Livingstone College, Dr. Da'Tarvia Parrish, Dr. Nicole Oehmen

Mississippi Eta, Alcorn State University, Dr. Antrina Bell

Tennessee Lambda, Cumberland University, Dr. Tara Mitchell Mielnik, Dr. Rachael Bible

Nebraska Theta, Midland University, Dr. Megan Nielsen

Illinois Pi, McKendree University, Dr. Michael Hahn
New Jersey Delta, Rider University, Dean Brooke Hunter, James Wojtowicz

2024 Incentive Chapters

Pennsylvania Alpha Rho, Immaculata University, Dr. Joshua Weikert
Oklahoma Iota, Langston University, Dr. Charles Spurlock
Massachusetts Beta, Regis College, Dr. Kathryn Edney
Texas Alpha Beta, St. Edward's University, Dr. Mity Myhr
Florida Kappa, Warner University, Dr. April Steen
Texas Omega, East Texas Baptist University, Dr. Lisa Daniel
Georgia Mu, Emmanuel University, Dr. Robert J. Fulton, Jr.

APPLICATIONS FOR GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS DUE MAY 1

2025 SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENTS (application deadline May 1, 2025)

As a Pi Gamma Mu member, you could qualify for a \$2,500 award to attend graduate school. Click [here](#) to learn about last year's scholarship recipients. Why not be one of the next awardees?

Eligibility Requirements:

- Only members of Pi Gamma Mu are eligible.
- Scholarships are intended for first time graduate students. Students who have already earned an advanced degree are not eligible to apply.
- The degree program must be in one of the following areas of study: anthropology, criminal justice, economics, geography-human, gerontology, history, history of education, human services, international relations, political science, psychology, social philosophy, sociology, social work, as well as related interdisciplinary programs anchored in the Social Sciences, particularly those that focus on age, environment, ethnicity, gender, race, and regional studies.
- Business Administration is specifically excluded from consideration.
- Other interdisciplinary fields will be considered on an individual basis based upon the degree to which the social sciences are an integral component of the overall course of study. In such cases, applicants should submit a program description outlining requirements and coursework.

Exclusions:



Previous recipients of Pi Gamma Mu scholarships are not eligible to apply again.

Awardees must be enrolled in the fall semester of the calendar year in which the scholarship is granted.

To encourage interdisciplinary scholarship, no more than three awards in the same social science discipline will be granted annually.

Deadline:

The annual deadline is May 1, 2025.

How to Apply:

The scholarship application and all attachments (other than official transcripts) should be submitted via the online Scholarship Portal. You will require a Google account. The following components are required:

- Student application form.
- Complete all required fields. Incomplete forms will not be considered.
- Personal statement.
 - Submit a personal essay (about 500 - 750 words) stating why you have chosen your field of graduate study and what you hope to achieve by a career in this field. What are your future goals related to your graduate studies? What special qualities/skills/training/expertise do you possess that will likely make you a success in your graduate work? Importantly, what do you hope to contribute to the field of social science?
- Resume.
- Provide your most recent resume, including academic and work history, any research experience, and service to the community.
- Recommendations.
 - Provide the names of at least three people who will be providing you with recommendations using our online form. The recommendations should be made by individuals qualified to assess your academic merit within the social sciences. Send the following link to your references: <https://forms.gle/9sCGSf5Eisz7WX276>
 - Note: It is the responsibility of applicants to ensure that recommendations have been submitted.
- Unofficial transcripts.

- Upload a copy of unofficial transcripts from all institutions of higher learning attended. Scholarship winners will be required to provide official transcripts that include the school's stamp or seal.

Notification of Awards:

Winners will be notified in late spring or summer, with the grants awarded in the fall.

Questions? Please contact Pi Gamma Mu Executive Director Suzanne Rupp at suzannerupp@pigammamu.org

The International Board of Trustees funds these scholarships, with support from donors who have indicated their support of this scholarship program with their financial gifts to Pi Gamma Mu.

SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS:

A friend of Pi Gamma Mu may endow a \$2500-per-year named scholarship for a one-time donation of \$50,000. The scholarship may be named for the donor or for someone whom the donor wants to honor or memorialize. For further information, contact Pi Gamma Mu's international office at (620) 221-3128.