

Pi Gamma Mu®

News

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PI GAMMA MU MOURNS THE LOSS OF DEAN FAFOUTIS, LONG TIME EDITOR OF THE *INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SCIENCE REVIEW*



Dean Fafoutis (1958-2025)

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Dean Fafoutis. Dean was our long-time friend, Pi Gamma Mu supporter and contributor, and past editor of our keystone journal, the *International Social Science Review (ISSR)*. Dean served as the editor of the *ISSR* for 11 years, from 2002 to 2013, producing a scholarly publication that attracted active participation and widespread respect. In 2013, the Pi Gamma Mu Board of Trustees conferred on him the title of "Editor Emeritus." He was also recognized for his significant contributions to the Journal and the Society through his designation to Pi Gamma Mu's Hall of Fame in 2013. During his impactful

career he worked as a lecturer in History at Salisbury University in Salisbury, MD. He continued to volunteer his time and talents to help Pi Gamma Mu and its members for as long as he was able and he will be greatly missed.

Dean's Obituary and digital guestbook can be found at: <https://www.echovita.com/us/obituaries/ny/new-york/dean-fafoutis-20374129>

With profound sadness, we say goodbye to Dean Fafoutis of New York, New York, whose vibrant spirit touched the lives of many. Dean left this world on September 27, 2025 at the age of 67, leaving a void in the lives of so many people. Leave a sympathy message to the family in the guestbook on this memorial page of Dean Fafoutis to show support.

He was predeceased by: his father Angelo Fafoutis; and his nephew Peter Xanthos. He is survived by: his mother Helen Fafoutis (Karavas); his siblings, Sofia Xanthos, Nicholas Fafoutis and Mary Green; his nieces, Anna-Helene Feinsilver and Lydia Green; his great-niece Emily Feinsilver; his great-nephew Matthew Feinsilver; his aunt Maria; and his cousins, Terry Key and Eraklis Petmezas. He is also survived by many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Transfiguration of Our Savior Greek Orthodox Church, 2990 S. Cashua Drive, Florence, SC 29501, or the National Kidney Foundation (<https://www.kidney.org>).

2025 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

After much deliberation on the part of the Pi Gamma Mu Awards Committee, the committee's chairperson recommended 5 scholarship recipients and 3 alternates for awards totaling \$12,500 to the Board of Trustees in 2025. The Trustees awarded the scholarships of \$2,500 each to the following lifetime members of Pi Gamma Mu:



Sonia Halabi

Sonia Halabi received the \$2,500 Carroll Parish Scholarship. Sonia was inducted into Pi Gamma Mu at the Illinois Pi chapter at McKendree University. Dr. Michael Hahn is the faculty sponsor for the chapter.

Sonia served as the Chapter President during her senior year and presented at the Pi Gamma Mu International Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 2024, which was the centennial celebration. She completed a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology with a Criminal Justice emphasis. Her minors are in Organizational Communication and Honors Program. Sonia will be pursuing a rigorous one-year Master of Arts Program in the Social Sciences (MAPSS) with a Sociology concentration at The University of Chicago. The University of Chicago has the oldest Sociology Department in the United States, founded in 1892. Sonia knew that The University of Chicago would be great for her because MAPSS is an interdisciplinary program to study the Social Sciences and she can concentrate further in Sociology for her coursework and master's thesis. Sonia loves studying how the Social Sciences are interconnected and how each discipline within the Social Sciences have their strength to shine. She is very grateful for getting into this highly selective university and she is thankful to those who supported her. She looks forward to learning from the incredible faculty at The University of Chicago. Sonia is thankful to Pi Gamma Mu for the graduate scholarship to support her studies.



Jasmine Lopez

(Sandra) Jasmine Lopez received the \$2,500 Marvel Stockwell Scholarship. Jasmine was inducted into Pi Gamma Mu at the Virginia Mu chapter at George Mason University. Amanda Torres is the faculty sponsor for the chapter.

Jasmine completed her undergraduate degree at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA, with a concentration in Integrative Studies and International Studies. During her undergraduate years, she interned at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law in Washington, D.C., was President of the Latin Student Association, and conducted independent research with Professor Correa Cabrera, collecting data on migration patterns along the Arizona-Mexico border and analyzing larger transnational network trends. She is currently a Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Fellow at New York University, where she is studying Portuguese. Her Master's program focuses on Latin America and Caribbean Studies, with research centered on the history and politics of racial formation in Latin America through a sociological lens. She is specifically examining Indigeneity in urban settings and how the state polices and legitimizes racial categorization in Brazil.



Aidan E. Obermueller

Aidan E. Obermueller received the \$2,500 Gordon E. Mercer Scholarship. Aidan was inducted into Pi Gamma Mu at the Indiana Epsilon chapter at Valparaiso University. Professor Niru Devaraj is the faculty sponsor for the chapter.

Aidan graduated from Valparaiso University this past May, where he studied Economics and Spanish. The most formative experiences there for him were participating in the University's Honors College (Christ College), his time in Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity, and studying in Costa Rica during his junior year. He will continue my studies this year at the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy, where he will pursue a Master of Public Policy, where he hopes to pursue a career in local government and get to know the city of Chicago better!



Julia K. Moor

Julia K. Moor received the \$2,500 Effie B. Urquhart Scholarship. She was inducted into the New York Alpha Gamma chapter of Pi Gamma Mu at Siena University (formerly Siena College). Dr. Tim E. Cooper is the faculty sponsor of the chapter.

Julia earned her Bachelor of Arts in History at Siena University, where she graduated Summa Cum Laude in 2025. She focused on 20th century Western European fashion history and *haute couture*, paying special attention to fashion theory, feminism, and the body. During her time as an undergraduate student, she deepened her knowledge of history by completing rigorous coursework as a participant in several high-level seminar-style classes on topics ranging from Japanese samurai to the Catholic Reformation. Her research culminated in her honors thesis, completed as part of her position as an Honors Fellow in the Standish Honors Program. She broadened her cross-cultural communication skills by studying abroad in Kraków, Poland in 2024, where her position as an intern and tour guide at the Galicia Jewish Museum fine-tuned her abilities as an educator. She further sharpened her expertise as a teacher through her multiple peer tutor positions, supporting students in their studies of writing, philosophy, and Greek. In her future pursuits, Julia hopes to draw on her wide range of academic and global experiences.

Julia is thrilled to continue studying history by earning her Master's at Lehigh University, where she continues her studies of fashion through the program's focus on transnational history.



Annaliese Heidelberger

Annaliese Heidelberger received a \$2,500 Scholarship. Annaliese was inducted into Pi Gamma Mu at the Pennsylvania Mu chapter at Franklin & Marshall College. Alan S. Glazer, CPA, is the faculty sponsor for the chapter.

Annaliese recently completed her undergraduate studies in three years, graduating Summa Cum Laude with her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a minor in environmental studies from Franklin & Marshall College. She is now pursuing a Master's of Social Work at the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice. She looks forward to undertaking her field placement, in which she will be helping to facilitate group therapy for populations managing long-term mental health conditions. She credits the liberal arts approach and social sciences for helping her cultivate a passion for social justice and interdisciplinary approaches to mental healthcare.

PI GAMMA MU CELEBRATES 100 YEARS BY PUBLISHING BOOK, "WITH DISTINCTION: CELEBRATING OUR PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE" by Clara Small

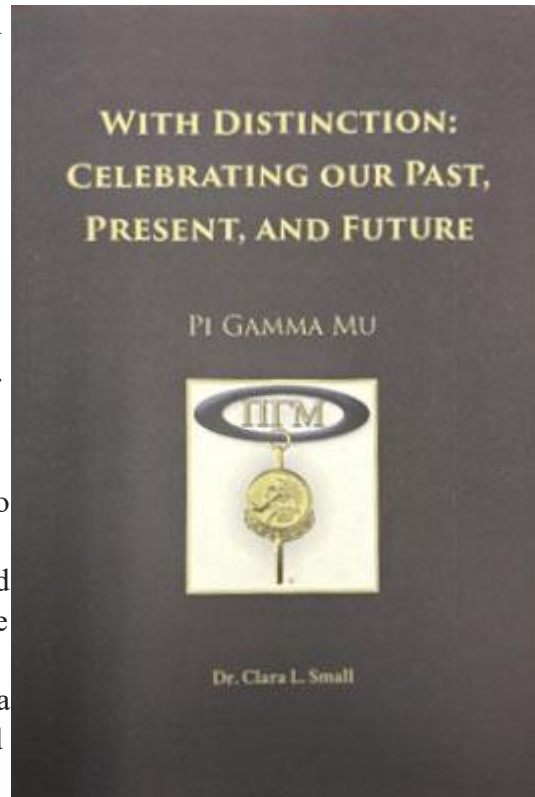
Pi Gamma Mu is proud to present a new book authored by Pi Gamma Mu 2nd Vice President, Dr. Clara Small.

The book, "With Distinction - Celebrating our Past, Present, and Future - Pi Gamma Mu" contains 289 pages of history, lists of scholarship winners, chapter awards, photos, and a message from Dr. Katherine Im, President of the Pi Gamma Mu Board of Trustees. The book also includes letters of support from several prominent members of Pi Gamma Mu and from former U.S. President, Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

Dr. Small worked with a team of research assistants who contributed many hours of time reading through historical documents in the form of meeting minutes and other documents. This in-depth look at the history of the Society required a trip to the international headquarters of Pi Gamma Mu, located in Winfield, Kansas. Dr. Clara Small, Dr. Laurence (Larry) Heck, Dr. Jean Karlen, and Dr. Katherine (Kathy) Im, traveled to Winfield Kansas to meet with the Executive Director of Pi Gamma Mu, Dr. Suzanne Rupp, in July of 2023. The team met for 3 days at the international office to review archival information as part of the research completed for the book. The group also met with the President of Southwestern College, Dr. Liz Frombgen, Pi Gamma Mu's founding chapter, and took a tour of the campus where it all started. During their visit to Winfield, the group enjoyed a meal at the home of Dr. Rupp which was also attended by past Executive Director of Pi Gamma Mu, Mrs. Ina Turner Gray, and Associate Director for Chapter Services, Mrs. Beth Biddle. Dr. Small then compiled the information along with her own research and wrote the book. The project took several years of hard work and the dedication of the team led by the talented historian, author, professor, and speaker, Dr. Small. The Society is forever grateful to them and to Dr. Small for her volunteerism and expertise in helping to preserve the history of the first 100 years of Pi Gamma Mu.

From the back cover of the book:

With the advent of a new president at the helm for the celebration of its 100th Anniversary, Pi Gamma Mu is embarking on another 100 years of service with distinction. Pi Gamma Mu would also begin its second century with renewed vigor and hope for a brighter future. We honor the legacy of those who came before and cherish the triumphs and challenges we face today as



lessons that allow us to forge ahead with intention, determination, and the will to improve the human condition through science and service. In the spirit of the enigmatic sankofa bird, we look back and learn, while cherishing our past and present, even as we step forward into a future filled with promise.

The book can be purchased online at the [Pi Gamma Mu website/Store](#) for \$20 plus shipping/handling. Get your piece of Pi Gamma Mu history today.