PI DELTA PHI

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NEWSLETTER

NATIONAL FRENCH HONOR SOCIETY
http://www.pideltaphi.org

Member of
The Association of College & University Honor Societies

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The Pi Delta Phi Newsletter is published twice a year to inform each chapter about the activities and events of the organization. It is hoped that this information will inspire members to improve their roles as promoters of the French language and francophone cultures.

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Pi Delta Phi Representatives Meet With Widow Of Former Executive Director Of Pi Delta Phi

Drs. Mary Gutermuth [outgoing Pi Delta Phi Executive Director], Paul Wood [current Pi Delta Phi President], and Karen Renick [current Pi Delta Phi Newsletter Editor] were indeed fortunate to spend some invaluable time with Mrs. Jean Yedlicka, widow of the Executive Director of Pi Delta Phi, who preceded Dr. Mary Gutermuth. In the Palmer House Hilton lounge, the four enthusiastically spoke of past times, present interests, current events, and future plans, with the focal point being Dr. Joseph Yedlicka's numerous contributions to Pi Delta Phi. (See photos below.)

From left to right: Dr. Mary Gutermuth (outgoing Executive Director), Dr. Paul Wood (Pi Delta Phi President), and Mrs. Jean Yedlicka
Dr. Mary Gutermuth Leaves Post
As Executive Director Of Pi Delta Phi

At the November 2004 annual board meeting of Pi Delta Phi, Dr. Mary Gutermuth and other board members welcomed Dr. Pamela Park as the incoming Executive Director of the French National Honor Society. The outgoing Executive Director, Dr. Gutermuth, was lauded by the board and awarded a gift with the insignia of Pi Delta Phi as a token of thanks for all her contributions to the organization. (More information on Dr. Park will appear in the Spring 2005 Newsletter.)
Tribute To Dr. Mary Gutermuth

Dear Mary,

Herein follows my open and heartfelt thank you letter for all the many years of dedication you have provided to the national organization of Pi Delta Phi. I remember several years ago, when I was a fledgling instructor at my institution. I regularly and religiously read the Pi Delta Phi Newsletter, always to find the name of Dr. Mary Gutermuth mentioned several times within its pages. In that period of my life, I had not yet had the honor of meeting you, and possessed no concrete idea of your myriad contributions to the organization. I only knew that you were a constant in all things francophone. Because I have been the Newsletter Editor for several years and, in addition, was fortunate enough to be your roommate at the 2003 American Association of Teachers of French Convention in Martinique, I now personally understand the “Gutermuth” phenomenon.

In our hotel in La Pointe-du-Bout, on the numerous field trips, in several meetings and even during meals, I was a first-hand witness to your dynamism. You knew and were regularly greeted by countless attendees from all parts of the United States and foreign countries. Whenever I posed a question, you always provided the answer or were able to find it for me via a resource person you knew, and you were constantly introducing me to your vast body of acquaintances. Your energy and enthusiasm never ceased to amaze me, and I can honestly comment that I learned something new and exciting from you every day. You are unquestionably one of the most unique and animated people I know, and it stands to reason that you must be the ideal role model of the dedicated professor. On behalf of the organization of Pi Delta Phi, I thank you for all your loyalty to and support of the French Honor Society, and wish that each of us could emulate you. Unquestionably, the strength and cohesion of Pi Delta Phi is due in large part to all your indefatigable work.

Sincerely,

Dr. Karen Renick
Pi Delta Phi Newsletter Editor
I have known Mary for forty years, having met her in graduate school at the University of Missouri. Throughout our several years there she served as my unofficial mentor and advisor in matters academic, financial and personal. Her ability to find solutions to what seemed to be the most desperate of situations was uncanny. And I was not the only one who relied on her for support: She and her mother rented out rooms to students in a wonderful old house near the campus and created such a homelike atmosphere for the girls they “took in” that they remained in contact with her for years afterward, some to this very day. The same is true for students who have benefited from her advisory capacities at Sam Houston State. Those I have come in contact with have always been enthusiastic in their appreciation for her generous care and concern. It is not surprising that she received a regional award for Outstanding Academic Advisor in 1990.

Having both settled in Texas (although at opposite ends of a quite substantial state), Mary and I have remained friends these many long years, traveling together at least once a year. Her talent at arranging itineraries down to the smallest detail has led me to suggest more than once that she open a travel agency after retirement. And her “multitasking” ability was impressive long before the term became fashionable. For example, she has been known to read an entire novel while driving across Oklahoma! But I hasten to add that the book was in large print and that she no longer, to my knowledge, exercises this particular skill. The incidents that did occur were, I regret to admit, due to my own inattention, yet Mary was able to rescue us calmly and efficiently from such near fatal disasters as a terrifying blowout outside of Butte and a spectacular fender bender somewhere in a remote corner of rural Maine. Unlike myself, Mary is always able to see the humor in these situations, and I can honestly state that I have never known her to be other than cheerful even in the most dire predicaments. She is truly a unique individual, and I am happy to participate in this well-deserved tribute to her remarkable capabilities.

À propos de Mary:

Dr. Mary Guthermuth, dont la passion pour la langue et la littérature françaises est bien connue parmi ses étudiants et ses collègues, a dédié de façon généreuse des années au poste de Directrice Exécutive de la Société Honoraire de Pi Delta Phi. En tant que “amie fidèle de la culture française” elle incarne la devise de la Société. Bien qu’il soit difficile
de remercier Mary de tout ce qu’elle a fait, et sans doute continuera à faire, pour notre société, j’aimerais lui exprimer un grand merci de tout coeur.

Dr. Scott Fish

Annual Executive Board Meeting Of Pi Delta Phi In Chicago, Illinois

The Pi Delta Phi Executive Board held this year’s annual meeting on Saturday, November 20, in a meeting room of the Palmer House Hilton in downtown Chicago. The board members included Pi Delta Phi President, Dr. Paul Wood, from St. Bonaventure University in New York, Outgoing Executive Director, Dr. Mary Gutermuth, from Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas, Newsletter Editor, Dr. Karen Renick, from California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, CA, and the following Regional Vice-presidents: Dr. Carleen Leggett from Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland [Southeast Region], Dr. Clayton Alcorn from the State University of New York College of Cortland, NY [Northeast Region], Dr. Pat Hopkins from Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX [South Central Region], Dr. Scott Fish from Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota [North Central Region], and Dr. Pamela Park [Western Region and incoming Executive Director].
Several New Chapters Installed

The Southeast Region of Pi Delta Phi added three new chapters in recent months at the following institutions: the University of North Carolina at Wilmington (Wilmington, North Carolina), Sweet Briar College (Sweet Briar, Virginia), and Emory and Henry College (Emory, Virginia). The UNCW chapter assumed the chapter name of NU KAPPA, becoming the 321st Pi Delta Phi chapter, and has as its Moderator Dr. Michelle Scatton-Tessier. The 323rd chapter, at Sweet Briar, was named NU MU, and is moderated by Dr. Marie-Thérèse Killiam. Emory and Henry College is the 326th college or university to become an institutional member of Pi Delta Phi, the 326th chapter--Nu Omicron, and its Moderator is Dr. Xiangyun Zhang. Dr. Carleen S. Leggett, National Vice-President for the Southeast Region, presided at each of the installation ceremonies.

(Submitted by Dr. Carleen S. Leggett, National Vice-President, Southeast Region)

December 04, 2003
Initiation of Nu Kappa members at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, NC. From Left to Right: Prof. PJ Lapaire, Michele Bone, Amber Creech, Lauren Brown, Prof. Carleen Leggett, Prof. Michelle Scatton-Tessier and Prof. Scott Jual

Members at the November 05, 2003 initiation of Nu Omicron at Emory and Henry College in Emory, Virginia).
Promoting French Through Excellence

Dr. Scott Fish, Pi Delta Phi North Central Vice-President, and Sharon Rapp, Présidente de la Société Honoraire de Français for high school students organized a session entitled “Promoting French Through Excellence” at the November 2004 ACTFL meeting in Chicago. The session described the histories and purposes of the two honor societies, provided information on how to apply for chapters, highlighted benefits of membership to students, and shared several ideas of chapter-led activities that can help to promote the awareness and study of French language, and Francophone cultures and literatures. Approximately thirty-five participants attended the session, and as a result Sharon and Scott hope to repeat the session at next year’s ACTFL meeting in Baltimore.

Thank You Letters from Pi Delta Phi
Summer 2004 Recipients

MEREDITH HOPE EMERSON

I am extremely grateful to Pi Delta Phi for honoring me with the study abroad experience this summer. My dream of studying, visiting, and living in France became a reality. I had an opportunity to study under the tutelage of some fine French professors as well as that of my host family while visiting the surrounding towns.

I was nervous about studying in France, but my real fear was that I would not get along well with my host family, be completely lost, and realize that my French skills were next to nothing. Happily, my fears never materialized. My host family, the Michels of Les Angles, is incredible. They are some of the kindest, most giving people I’ve ever met. They spent much time with me just talking and explaining French culture as well as taking me to the Camargue, Orange, la Fontaine de Vaucluse and other surrounding areas. My accent, vocabulary, and most importantly, confidence in my abilities vastly improved. I was surprised at how much I was able to recall when I couldn’t fall back on English. The accent du Midi took me a little while to get used to, however, it made French and its other accents much easier to understand. I credit that accent with the exponential improvement in my comprehension. This opportunity was extremely rewarding. Thank you once again to Pi Delta Phi; I am truly grateful.
Dear National French Honor Society,

This is to thank you for the scholarship you awarded me to study abroad in France. With this award, I was able to travel to France in order to experience and to become immersed in the Provençal culture of and around Avignon.

My first taste of France was six weeks filled with good sounds, sights and dining. Everyday at noon, as I sat through my classes (usually Art and Architecture, but sometimes History of the Fifth Republic), the bells at the Eglise de St. Didier would start ringing, to call people to mass. Those bells added musical pleasure to the colors of daily life, whether for students or for waiters at one of the cafés.

The meals I was served by my host, Matthias Amar, were, I must state, tastier than any home-cooking I could possibly experience stateside. These repasts had ample flavor from the fresh produce, the fruits and vegetables grown on farms surrounding Avignon, sold in the markets daily. The least expensive wine, I was amazed, would beat out more expensive wine in the United States. My fellow American students at the Institut Américain Universitaire made sure to sit and enjoy wine at cafés near the plazas after class. Very often, Mme. la Directrice (I, unfortunately, have forgotten this kind woman’s name: she took me directly to the one net-café that was open when others were closed one Friday evening) of the Centre d’Avignon would comment on our lunches that could be considered “typically” French, which usually consisted of brie, camembert or chevrotin cheese, wine and baguettes.

I saw reminders of cultural influence that Christianity had had in this region. Many of the churches have been converted for other uses, such as: apartment buildings, cut up into stores. Other churches were simply boarded up, locked until someone would use them again. I found it kind of sad, in a way, that one of the defining cultural phenomena of France had mostly gravestones to mark their existence.

While I toured a few churches, I did tour other buildings that once marked the Catholic Church’s more dominant role that it once had in France, including the Palais des Papes, which was devoid of opulent furniture (moved to another museum), which made it feel a little like a sepulcher, and the remnants of a monastery in Villeneuve-lez-Avignon, which had been cut up into apartments by the actors in the French Revolution.

Besides the destruction to the monastery, with a wing of one of its chapels fallen down, the Rue de la République, so my host told me, was built during the Revolution of 1789 and had razed a nunnery that once was there. The destruction of places holy to the Vatican was testament to the other, modern, influencing cultural trait of France, which was and continues to be interconnected with the dying one. This influence was joined to religion
since its inception when the Bastille was stormed, and religion and state were declared unfit to be mixed. I suppose the sentiment runs the other way, as no French church, regardless of its creed, ever flies the national flag, very much reverse of what you would see at American churches across our continent.

Delight and awe struck me as I found more museums, art house cinemas, and places of architectural significance than can be found in my hometown of Salt Lake City, Utah, a city of comparable populations. One museum, Musée Calvert, which displayed a lot of artwork by regional artists (including a grotesque depiction of a man in torture by Inquisitors), doubled as a venue for a horn festival concert that lasted three days. Vive la musique en France!

Beyond trips to see art on display, or viewings of Les Choristes, Fahrenheit 9/11, or Super Size Me, I went to see plays and other drama that had descended on the quiet of the city for Avignon’s well-known theatre festival. The first spectacle I attended was post-modern, about the mundanity of life in the office, demonstrated the worries of working parents, showed the intra-office romance, and it even revealed a scene about the sexual impropriety perpetrated by the boss against his secretary. Philip Glass could not have written a more original theatrical piece, one of many “Off” festival plays I attended. The only “In” festival performances was an update of Jean Racine’s Andromaque. I watched it with others of the Institute, as this was included as part of the IAU experience, getting a little shocked (my host had told me that “In” usually meant pretentious, calculated theatre), but having a trouble understanding the language, as the vocabulary was more vulgar than I had learned, and had known.

I was happy to go to France. I am glad to know that there indeed is something behind the literature I have read, and will continue to read. I was intrigued to find out France has regions that differ from each such that when I traveled to Perpignan, in the Catalan region, I felt that I needed to pull my passport out for new country’s border guard. I must return to France to visit the other regions, but my time in Provence has taught me a lot about the cuisine of this place, of the slow but eventual warmth of these ancient Mediterraneans and their land, that now I seek to fill my life with all the wonderful art, live classical concerts, fresh-baked bread (scarce in our country), rich chocolate, and savory wine (equally hard-to-find). Avignon was a perfect place to begin experiencing the art, attitudes, diet, and overall culture that makes France what she is.

Thank you for awarding me this chance to be invigorated, so that I could learn that French culture and language is more than what is written in the books that I have read up until now. This scholarship is a generous way to send others to see and feel the living, vibrant culture that is France.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Kirk
Donations To Pi Delta Phi

Please remember that Pi Delta Phi is a nonprofit organization that makes it possible for qualified students in French to greatly benefit from its generous Summer Scholarship programs to selected francophone universities abroad. If you or a friend or relative were a beneficiary of one of these scholarships, and if you value what Pi Delta Phi provided you, we would be grateful for any support you could lend our French honor society. You and we know that giving makes a difference.

Plans To Distribute PDP Newsletter On The National Web Site

We remind you that at the November 22, 2003 board meeting in Philadelphia, the members discussed future plans of sending the Newsletter via the official web site of the organization. Please note that as of that date all chapters receive one copy of the newsletter.

N.B. Pi Delta Phi chapters with their own web site need to [1] identify it by the chapter name, and [2] create a link to the national Pi Delta Phi site: http://www.pideltaphi.org

Yedlicka Summer Scholarship Winners For Summer 2005

The winners of this year’s summer scholarships named in honor of Dr. Joseph Yedlicka are Steven Hankins, Aubry Jones, and Jeannette Halm. Steven, a National Deans’ List awardee from Mu Nu chapter at Lee University in Cleveland, TN, will study in Avignon through the auspices of the Institute for American Universities [IAU]. The Moderator of Mu Nu is Dr. James D. Wilkins. Jeannette Halm from Iota Rho the University of Nebraska at Omaha, will also study in Avignon through IAU. The Faculty Moderator of Iota Rho is Dr. Juliette Parnell. Aubry, from the Eta Theta chapter at St. Bonaventure, in St. Bonaventure, NY, will study at the American University of Paris. Eta Theta’s Moderator is Dr. Guy F. Imhoff. Please consult the Spring 2005 Newsletter for more information on these scholarship winners.
BETA SIGMA: The Beta Sigma chapter at Georgetown College in Georgetown, Kentucky had one new initiate this year, Megan Goin. Members Daniel Harrison and Erica Riehl conducted the April ceremony and Haitian freshman Mohammed Volcy read a moving poem about his homeland. Other Beta Sigmas were studying abroad for the semester: Beth Bradley spent a semester in Avignon; Mitch Woods, who had completed an internship in Haiti in Summer 2003, spent Spring 2004 in Paris. The chapter is moderated by Dr. Jana A. Brill.

DELTA BETA: The Delta Beta chapter at Georgian Court University in Lakewood, New Jersey, inducted four new members on April 25, 2004: Krista Gilbert, Cecelia Soares, Elyse Baumer and Elina Tsaturyan. Sister Mary-Theresa McCarthy, Ph.D, moderates the chapter.

ZETA CHI: ZETA CHI chapter at California Lutheran University [CLU] in Thousand Oaks, CA, in conjunction with the CLU French Club, participated in several activities during the fall semester. In addition
to the semesterly attendance at Fall Showcase, various members volunteered to work in October at the Community Leaders auction held at the nearby Reagan Library in Simi. In November they celebrated La Semaine du Français by advertising the events campus-wide with large posters, a francophone display in a large case in the Pearson Library, a dinner at one of the local French restaurants, Café Provençal, a film festival with showings of Amélie, 8 Femmes, Les Triplettes de Belleville, and Le Dîner de cons. During that week, one French/francophone dish was served per day in the cafeteria. In addition, they practiced reading poetry and teaching a song in French to students for the CLU World Fair. (They also went to Los Angeles to see the Bizet opera Carmen.) And in December, members visited the Los Angeles County Art Museum to see two special exhibits: “Renoir to Matisse: The Eye of Duncan Philips” and “Poussin to Cézanne”. The chapter hopes to see a French film, visit the J. Paul Getty Museum, prepare French food for a lunch or dinner, and also go to a French restaurant. The Faculty Moderator of ZETA CHI is Dr. Karen Renick.

French Club and Zeta Chi members from left to right: Cassandra Wolf, Jacob Jensen, Chantelle McCain, and Cynthia Cardona

ETA THETA: The Eta Theta chapter at Saint Bonaventure University in St. Bonaventure, New York, held its induction ceremony in April 2003. Six regular members were inducted: Freshman Nathan Christopher, Junior Christie Mendola, Sophomore Reagan Terry, Sophomore Kelly Voll, and Sophomore Allyson Weymouth, as well as one honorary member, Ludovic Augustin, teaching assistant in French in France. The chapter is moderated by Dr. Guy F. Imhoff.
IOTA EPSILON: The Iota Epsilon chapter at Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago, Illinois held their initiation on Thursday, April 29 at 7:30 p.m. in the Student Union Building, Room 214. Fifteen inductees were welcomed in their ceremony (see program).
IOTA MU: The Iota Mu chapter at Albright College in Reading, Pennsylvania held its annual initiation ceremony at the home of Professor Ann Myers on March 7, 2004. Four students were initiated: Adam Barrows, Meghan Cowfer, Alison Niblick and Mileiry Rodriguez. Other members attending were Maggie Bestwick, Bridget Fitzgerald, Megan Flannery, Ted Isselman, Emilie Reimer, Jamie Lokaj, Loren Morgan, and Professors Judith Geiser, Adam John, Maria Melendez, Yvonne Wittels and Ann Myers.

New initiates at Iota Mu at Albright College in Reading, PA

Members and guests present at the March 07, 2003 Iota Mu initiation.
Iota Kappa: The Iota Kappa chapter at Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, Indiana held a Spring 2004 reception for its new members. It also sponsored a French film festival in September and October 2003. The chapter moderator is Randa J. Duvick.


Kappa Lambda: The Kappa Lambda chapter at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee inducted the following students at the Spring 2004 Induction Ceremony: Seniors Monica Colmenares, Sarah Bate-man, Lara Cooley, Emily Bond, Allison Moore, Isaac Clements, Lydia Taplett, Murphy Elizabeth Harmon, Kristyn Tobey, Tyler Lown, Jessica Pettus, Gna Russo, Stephanie Siehr; Juniors Brandon Webb, Sarah Britz, Seth Wilson, Amanda Burcham, Charisse Carver, Erica Clark, Amanda Gould, Melissa Hester, Lauren Hussey, Jennifer Montesi, Virginia Simon, Ede Tinsley; Sophomores Kathryn Peters, Elizabeth Steedley, Jacqueline Wilde; Graduate Students Lisa Olivia Grenvicz and Heather McNeil. The chapter moderator is Virginia M. Scott.

Theta Psi: The Theta Psi Chapter at Morgan State University (President: Ms. Jo-Zette Dick; Moderator: Dr. Carleen S. Leggett; Associate Moderator: Dr. Sandye Jean McIntyre, II) presented a variety of programs
during the past academic year, in cooperation with Morgan’s Cercle Français. Celebrations of « La Semaine du français » et « La Semaine de la francophonie » included a series of French and Francophone African films and a program of African dance and drumming. A « Soirée de jeux de société » and a « Soirée de théâtre » were also featured. The tradition was continued of an annual « Déjeuner français » with Pi Delta Phi initiation ceremony immediately following at the authentic French restaurant, Tersiguel, in Ellicott City, Maryland. During the May 2004 ceremony, the following Morgan State University students of French were inducted as new members: Sheree Bennett, Godfrey Chang, Ainehi Edoro, Khadija Harris, Michelle Ramlagan, Zakiyyah Seitu, Adanna Taylor, Nicole Travers, and Melanie Thompson.
Editor’s Note

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding your specific chapter, or PI DELTA PHI in general, please contact the PDP Executive Director, Dr. Pamela Park, who may be reached at any of the following:

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   Box 8350
   Dept. of Foreign Languages
   Idaho State University
   Pocatello, ID 83209-8067
3) telephone: (208) 282-3740
Grand’ Merci from the Newsletter Editor

Each year I again wholeheartedly thank each and every contributor to the PI DELTA PHI Newsletter, for without you there would be no news: the Summer Scholarship recipients whose unique personalized thank you letters recreate their unforgettable summers in francophone areas and encourage others to persevere in their studies of French; the individual chapters themselves, each constantly adding new members and lending their time and efforts to promoting French and francophone studies; the diligent and dedicated chapter moderators, some of whom have served the organization for over twenty years; the student chapter officers with their enthusiastic reports of field trips to films, concerts, and all things francophone; and those without whom you would not receive these pages: my departmental assistants, Ms. Chantelle McCain and Clarice Hammett, the layout staff in the university’s graphics services, the printers in their publications department; and the bulk mailers with whom final arrangements are made for labeling and mailing to each chapter moderator a set of more than three hundred newsletter copies. Ultimately, the PI DELTA PHI Newsletter that you receive is the result of the combined efforts of individuals like you. I personally am indebted to all contributors, and ask that you continue to send newsworthy material to us to make the Newsletter even better. Merci infiniment.

Karen Renick
Newsletter Editor
PI DELTA PHI
http://www.pideltaphi.org

To recognize outstanding scholarship in the French language and literature

To increase the knowledge and admiration of Americans for the contributions of France to world culture

To stimulate and encourage cultural activities which will lead to a deeper appreciation of francophone cultures and peoples

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