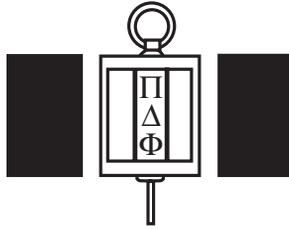


PI DELTA PHI

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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.

Please send all news items and correspondence to:

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Fall 2006 National News



Dr. Clayton Alcorn

In Memoriam

We regret to announce that Dr. Clayton Alcorn, former Pi Delta Phi board member representing the Northeast Region, passed away in late April.

Clayton Alcorn, Jr. was a warm, giving man who acted more his shoe size than his age. “Claytie” was an integral part of his Cortlandville, New York community and put forth immense efforts in attempts to make the world a better place.

For all of his life Clayton was an avid piano player, humbly eager to use his impressive skills to bring a smile to any person’s face, which he often did. His family, friends and neighbors all recognized and loved Clayton’s unique playing style and intense passion. Clayton’s zeal spread throughout all aspects of his life: in his 39 years of teaching as a professor of French at State University of New York College of Cortland, Dr. Alcorn was an intrinsic aspect of the academic community, and more importantly, a friend to all who knew him. Students and professors alike eagerly anticipated any events that included the jovial man, and would always look forward to the interesting dynamics that he brought to the occasion.

Within the Pi Delta Phi society, Clayton leaves an irreplaceable legacy: he was constantly willing to do more for the good of the organization, proffering his abilities to accomplish any task. He was the driving force behind his local chapter Theta Rho, and his generous spirit motivated him to accept the office of north-east regional Vice President. His dedication made him hugely successful in any

position. Throughout his participation in Pi Delta Phi, Dr. Alcorn went above and beyond the call of duty, actively participating in various ways, and often installing new chapters.

“Clayt” was infinitely more than any words can ever describe; his presence of spirit surrounded him with an indescribable, alluring aura. All that Clayton was will be sorely missed by all.

Some thoughts from those who knew him best:

Pi Delta Phi has lost a dedicated and enthusiastic Vice President with the death of Clayton Alcorn, PhD, SUNY Cortland. Clayton enjoyed developing contacts and bringing new chapters into the family of Pi Delta Phi. During his tenure as Vice President he installed 12 new chapters, the last one in April, NU PI of LeMoyne College. He was intending to install chapter NU TAU at Providence College later that month but passed away unexpectedly.

Clayton had replaced me as Vice-President for the North East and his tenure on the board parallels mine as President. It was a blessing to have him with us these past years.

He was an inspiration, a voice of reason and a guide to all of us.

-Dr. Paul Wood

Dr. Clayton Alcorn, a professor of French at the University of New York at Cortland for thirty-nine years and long-time Pi Delta Phi Vice President, truly embodied the spirit and motto of Pi Delta Phi: *Avançons amis fidèles de la culture française*. He will be remembered with fondness as a true francophile, dedicated teacher and scholar, and strong advocate for international education. To find an example of his dedication to language one need look no further than the letter he wrote to the “Notes & asides” section of the National Review (Nov. 21, 2005) in which he underlined the frequent misuse of the expression “to beg the question” within the pages of the Review; the response by William F Buckley says it all: “My thoughts are: Don’t mess with Clayton Alcorn!”

-Dr. Scott Fish

Although I only knew Clayton for a short while, I enjoyed the opportunity to see him every year at the Executive Board meeting. I had the impression that he installed more new chapters than anyone else, for each year he would relate with great enjoyment his experiences in traveling to several different schools in his area. His enthusiasm was infectious and he was an inspiration to those of us on the brink of retirement. He was indeed a unique presence at the meetings, and he will be sorely missed.

-Dr. Patricia Hopkins

Clayton was a colleague whom we constantly urged never to retire from the board, since he represented and embodied institutional wisdom, gentle gallantry, and sound reasoning. He delighted in his forays to various geographical locations to install many new chapters of Pi Delta Phi, and his reports of those ceremonies were always delivered and received as solid and enduring. We miss him very much and shall always treasure the many fond memories of our association with him.

In loving remembrance,
-Dr. Carleen S. Leggett

Dr. Clayton Alcorn worked tirelessly to promote chapters, and one probably could count the number installed by him by checking the schools in his area added to the roster during his years on the board; he succeeded Dr. Paul Wood as North Eastern Vice President, and there were many chapters in his states. He continued serving even after his retirement and seemed to get great joy out of adding new chapters. I know that he will be missed.

-Dr. Mary Gutermuth

Annual Executive Board Meeting of Pi Delta Phi Held in Tucson, Arizona

Pi Delta Phi Executive Board members met in the Doubletree Reid Park Hotel in Tucson, Arizona on Saturday, October 14, 2006 in conjunction with the annual convention of the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association (RMMLA). Those present included the Executive Director, Dr. Pamela Park (Idaho State University in Pocatello, ID), the President, Dr. Paul Wood (St. Bonaventure University in St. Bonaventure, New York), the Newsletter Editor, Dr. Karen Renick (California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, California), and the following Regional Vice-Presidents: Dr. Pat Hopkins from Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX [South Central Region] and Dr. Scott Fish from Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota [North Central Region]. In the morning session, the board held its National Meeting, open to the public, in Salon D. After the usual welcome, introductions, and announcements, reports were heard from the President, the Regional Vice-Presidents, and the Newsletter Editor. Questions and discussion followed.

After lunch, Pi Delta Phi members met for their annual Executive Board meeting in the Redwood room of the Doubletree Hotel. After the approval of the minutes of the November 19, 2005 meeting, the annual reports resumed. Subsequently, other business was discussed.

Two new chapters were announced: #330 NU TAU, installed on May 04, 2006 at Providence College, and whose Moderator is Patricia Schideler; and #331 NU

EPSILON at Christopher Newport University, installed on May 04, by Dr. Carleen Leggett. The Faculty Moderator of NU EPSILON is Georgeta Georgescu.

Chapters pending are at the following institutions:

Wesleyan University (Middleton, CT), Indiana University NW (Gary, IN) [Moderator: Scott Pegram], Cornell College, Mount Vernon, IA, University of Texas at Arlington [Moderator: Dolores Holder], University of Vermont (Burlington, VT), and Luther College (Decorah, IA) [Moderator: Ruth Caldwell].

Chapters reactivated are at the following institutions:

Dominican University in River Forest, IL: ALPHA TAU

New York University in New York, NY: UPSILON



Pi Delta Phi Executive Board Members at the October 13, 2006 meeting at Double Tree Hotel in Tucson, AZ. From left to right: Drs. Pat Hopkins, Paul Wood, Pamela Park, and Scott Fish. Photo taken by Dr. Karen Renick.

La Semaine du Français

Pi Delta Phi would be very appreciative if you would notify us as to what innovations your chapter has created to make the most successful and attended attractions at your institution during "La Semaine du Français." Films, dinners,

*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 assistant Michèle Hernandez, 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

plays, singers, any francophone activities and displays whatsoever will be described in our fall edition of the Newsletter. Thank you in advance for your participation and enthusiasm.

Thank You Letters from Pi Delta Phi Summer 2006 Recipients

ELISA COTELO [Paris]

Studying in Paris had always been a dream of mine. After having won the French Honor Society scholarship to the American University of Paris (AUP), still in disbelief, I arrived in Paris on July 9th, 2006. With only two hours to get my luggage, take the RER to the home of my French host family, and get to school for orientation, I found a feeling of nervousness taking over me as I seemed to have forgotten all my French. After several moments of confusion I remembered my basics and managed to get into Paris.

The first few days were overwhelming. I went from one orientation discussion on safety, to another on budgeting, and so on for an entire weekend. When the first day of school finally arrived I was, to say the least, very relieved. The ambiance at the American University is very relaxed, and very unlike other American schools. This made it much easier to get accustomed to life in Paris and learn to call it 'home' at least for a few weeks.

The students at AUP are all very welcoming. It was hard not to feel a certain connection with one another when we were all experiencing the same communication obstacles within Paris. We were all out of our 'comfort zone' which allowed us to create lasting friendships. What was most amazing for me was seeing students from all over the world. I was born and raised in Uruguay but have spent the last 8 years in the United States, and it is because of this that I've developed a great desire to meet people from other places. I find comfort in it. While in Paris, not only did I meet a lot of American students and French locals, but also students from all over Europe, from Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Australia... This interaction with so many different nationalities allowed my cultural experience in Paris to be richer than I had anticipated.

While in Paris, I was enrolled in two courses. "Paris Present Tense" was an art history class focusing on Parisian architecture and urban design from the early 19th century to the late 20th century. This class was considered the beginning of my master studies in architecture, which I will continue next fall, in 2007. The course included several books that were generally both in French and in English, as well as four-hour lectures three times a week, and four-hour visits the remaining two days of class. During these visits we went everywhere—from old Guimard housing buildings, to UNESCO, Ott's Opera House and the Communist Party Headquarters.

The second course I was enrolled in was "Advanced Conversation." In this class we explored communication through debates, short presentations,

and discussions as well as audiovisual activities with radio and documentaries on television. The professor encouraged conversation solely in French. This class was a great review for me and allowed me to participate in a way that focused only on oral skills, which I had never experienced before.

Aside from life at AUP, Paris had a lot to offer. Between the rides on the Bateaux Mouches, dinner on-the-go with crêpes, the night life in areas such as Saint Michel, and everything else I saw, I can hardly decide which activity was the most enjoyable to me. Everywhere I turned there was something new. I was taken aback by the beauty of the city and its amazing history. Every building had a story to tell, with so many of them having been erected centuries ago. Visiting the churches of Saint Paul and Notre Dame was overwhelming; the scenery with the Seine in the background, perpetually at my side, was majestic. I feel as if in those five weeks in Paris I saw so much, and yet so little. Paris is a city that is so full of life, and ready to be explored, that I need more time (and this gives me the perfect excuse to return one day!). A stroll on the Ile Saint Louis or Rue Mouffetard, eating ice cream in *Paris Plages*, or having dinner at some chic French restaurant all became part of my daily life in Paris. The rhythm there, the pace at which life goes by, is so full of energy and tremendously enjoyable.

When the time arrived to leave Paris, I found it very difficult. I had truly gotten used to my life there, walking past the Eiffel Tower and UNESCO on my way to class, and speaking in French on a regular basis. Packing my things, I realized what I really wanted to take with me was all in my mind, the amazing moments spent in Paris, wandering through its streets and getting to know the city. I value the opportunity that I have had more than anything, because to me it was the perfect ending to my undergraduate college education. I am very proud of having been chosen as the recipient for this scholarship and I am very thankful to those professors who made it possible.

DANA SCHULTE
[Avignon]

Quand j'ai reçu la bourse pour étudier en France, je pensais : « Excellent, je vais finalement avoir l'occasion de parler français tout le temps ». J'avais eu raison, mais beaucoup d'autres aspects ont rendu l'expérience pertinente pour moi, une personne qui veut étudier plus que la langue : la culture, la vie quotidienne et la société française. Cette bourse de Pi Delta Phi a ouvert la porte à cette culture.

Evidemment, j'ai vécu chez une famille française-- une méthode parfaite pour entrer dans « le monde français ». J'ai fait partie de cette vie pendant le dîner avec toute la famille : le grand-père, la grand-mère, l'oncle, le petit neveu qui avait quatre ans, etc. Il était intéressant de voir la dynamique familiale entre chaque personne et bien sûr, j'ai vu des similarités avec ma famille américaine. Le dîner montrait aussi les différences : la concentration sur la nourriture, les débats sérieux et l'amour du vin. Cet événement était le moment le plus important de ma journée parce que je faisais partie de ce groupe : la famille française.

Ce qui m'a aidé plus que vivre avec eux, c'était le fait que ma mère d'accueil avait un fils qui avait le même âge et le même anniversaire que moi. Grâce à lui, j'ai rencontré des jeunes gens, tous qui étaient vraiment contents de répondre à mes questions à propos de leur vie et de me poser des questions à propos des Américains. Pendant les soirées, j'avais l'opportunité d'observer des aspects français qui échapperaient à une personne qui voyage seulement comme touriste en France. Je dois à ma famille un grand « merci » pour toutes mes expériences notables. La culture française m'est venue par le festival du théâtre en Avignon. En juillet, toute la ville a été transformée. Des troupes d'acteurs arrivaient, des touristes remplissaient les rues, et des participants couvraient les murs publics avec les affiches pour chaque pièce qui allait être jouée. Il n'y avait pas d'espace pour marcher dans les rues avec tous les gens du théâtre ! D'abord, je me suis rendu compte que chaque rue contenait un spectacle en dehors des théâtres ; les acteurs faisaient de la publicité pour leurs pièces en criant et en jouant près des restaurants que tous les touristes fréquentaient. Le chaos régnait !

Le festival était plus que le chaos : j'avais le choix entre 600 pièces par jour. C'était difficile à choisir ! Pour chaque cours, j'ai dû assister à une pièce, mais je suis aussi allée à d'autres pièces. Par exemple, une troupe a joué « Hilda », que Marie N'Diaye a écrite (j'ai fait une présentation sur cet auteur dans un cours à l'Université d'Illinois). J'aurais pu regarder la pièce à New York pour 50 dollars, mais au lieu de cela, j'ai regardé « Hilda » à Avignon pour 10 euros et en français ! À ce moment, j'étais fière de moi même – je ne me semblais pas comme une étudiante : j'ai choisi la pièce grâce à ma connaissance, et la pièce était dans la langue que je veux parler couramment. En fait, ce festival m'a donné plus de confiance dans la langue française. J'ai jamais compris toute une pièce, mais il était de plus en plus facile de saisir l'intrigue. Enfin, j'ai fait des progrès !

Il y a encore d'autres parties de mon séjour en France qui m'ont aidée, certainement les voyages dans la région du sud de la France. Le groupe d'étudiants américains de l'Institute for American Universities a voyagé ensemble trois fois. Selon moi, le jour le plus mémorable était quand nous avons visité la Cathédrale d'images, en Baux de Provence. Le centenaire de Paul Cézanne, était célébré en projetant ses grandes œuvres sur les murs de la Cathédrale, en même temps qu'on entendait des chansons classiques et des entretiens qui expliquaient les tableaux. Le froid de la caverne, les images et les échos de la musique transportaient le spectateur dans les peintures. Ce moment-là était la première fois où j'ai apprécié la peinture. Après cette expérience, j'ai pu visiter les musées à Paris et en Avignon avec plus d'enthousiasme et d'appréciation pour l'art français. J'avais certainement de la chance quand Pi Delta Phi m'a choisie en tant que boursière. Je savais que j'allais améliorer mes capacités dans la langue française, mais j'étais étonnée de me rendre compte des autres opportunités qui m'attendaient en France. Merci pour m'avoir donné la possibilité de connaître la France !

Editor's Note : We are eagerly awaiting the thank you letter from Pi Delta Phi Summer 2006 Scholarship recipient, Jesse Woodrow.

National Membership Dues

Pi Delta Phi Membership dues will be \$30.00 as of Fall 2007.

Pi Delta Phi Color Scholarship Poster

N.B. Chapter Moderators can download a color scholarship poster from the Pi Delta Phi website to post and/or distribute.

Fall 2006 Chapter News

GAMMA DELTA chapter at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, NC inducted the following new members: Mme Sandrine Jomard, Mme Tracy Nicholson, Mlle Anna Rozzo, Mlle Emily Sheffield, and Mme Dibrelle Tourret. This, the chapter's fifty-sixth induction ceremony, was organized by Professor Stephanie O'Hara. Previous inductees in attendance included Mme Sarah Peterson, M. Collin Cooper, and Professor Danielle Levine. Professors David Fein and Roberto Campo read poetry selections, and Professor Peter Dola gave a short talk on French culture. A reception followed. The chapter is currently at work on plans to celebrate National French Week.

ZETA CHI chapter at California Lutheran University [CLU] in Thousand Oaks, CA, along with the French Club, was able to celebrate the francophone world in various ways throughout the fall semester. To kick off the new academic year, they held a remarkably successful "Escargot Experience" to which students brought and ate not only escargots, but also escargots pasta, escargots toast, Vichyssoise soup, a plethora of cheeses, quiche, and mousse au chocolat. Several students were also able to journey to Los Angeles for an afternoon of fun: they started with lunch at the quaint Café Angélique in the heart of downtown L.A., and then they went to the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion to see Jules Massenet's *Manon*. The French Club was also able to attend the local Community Leader's Association annual fundraiser for CLU. For National French Week, francophile students were able to host 2 films for students on campus: *Caché*, starring Juliette Binoche and Daniel Auteuil; and also *Les Diaboliques*, a 1955 film adaption by Henri-Georges Clouzot, of the Boileau and Narcejac novel *Celle qui n'était plus*. The highlight of the week was the cheese tasting party, hosted in conjunction with residence life, the event boasted over 25 different kinds of cheeses and countless students to celebrate francophone culture. Among the choices of cheese were mimolette, tête de moine, époisses de Bourgogne, bleu d'Auvergne, fourme

d'Ambert, petit munster-géromé, St.-André, Explorateur, in addition to brie, chèvre, camembert and raclette.



ZETA CHI (left to right) Delia de la Cruz, Cynthia Cardona, Victoria Webb, and Michele Hernandez at the CLU Community Leaders Auction at Westlake Plaza Hotel.

IOTA MU chapter of Albright College in Reading, Pennsylvania, held its annual initiation ceremony at the home of Professors Maria Melendez and Adam John on April 2, 2006. The following seven students (two in absentia) were initiated: Tyler Arcara, Andre Boateng, Susan Cwalina, Stephanie Franchetti, Colleen O'Donnell, Carissa Skavery and Katie Wilkie. Other student members attending the ceremony and a chapter dinner were Adam Barrows, Maggie Bestwick, Meghan Cowfer, Bridget Fitzgerald, Megan Flannery, Hacquiline Kapler, Rachel Landsburger, Jamie Lokaj, Michelle Mercier, Bill Beilly and Mileiry Rodriquez. Professors Judith Geiser, Adam John, Maria Melendez, and Ann Myers were also present.



IOTA MU Initiation, April 2, 2006.

KAPPA BETA chapter of The American University of Paris, France a pu assister aux deux conférences organisées par le Centre de Langue Française de The American University of Paris :

--“Penser la Liberté en temps de détresse,” avec Julia Kristeva, écrivain et journaliste.

--“Pourquoi la psychanalyse?” avec Elisabeth Roudinesco, psychanalyste.

D’autre part, par une belle matinée de printemps, quelques membres du chapitre Kappa Beta se sont retrouvés au Petit Palais, récemment rénové. Le musée de la ville de Paris, construit pour l’exposition universelle de 1900, abrite des œuvres d’art reflétant les principaux courants artistiques de l’Antiquité à 1914. Chacun, selon ses goûts, a pu admirer une statue Art nouveau, une peinture impressionniste ou un vase Gallé. Tout en contemplant l’architecture et le jardin intérieur, ils ont fait une halte au café du Petit Palais pour terminer joyeusement cette visite.

Le vendredi 28 avril, l’initiation de deux nouveaux membres, Ashley Madsen et Laura Cook, a été fêtée au restaurant ‘Le Thoumieux’, dans le VIII^e arrondissement. Laura avait déjà été honorée pour son excellence en français dans son lycée aux Etats-Unis. Tous les membres présents ont apprécié la savoureuse cuisine française chez Thoumieux, restaurant tenu par la même famille depuis 1904. Il ne faut pas manquer leur riz au lait « comme chez grand-mère » ! Ce repas a été l’occasion d’accueillir des membres des années précédentes, résidants à Paris. Parmi eux, Randy Vener, responsable des aides financières à The American University of Paris, reste un symbole du lien franco-américain, aux Etats-Unis, un ancien étudiant de Dr. Karen Renick, éditrice du bulletin de Pi Delta Phi.



KAPPA BETA Initiation, April 28, 2006. (From left to right) Claudia Moy, Ashely Madsen, Dominique Mougel, Edith Täieb, Shandy Shield, Henri-Robert Pérez, Randy Vener, Laura Cook

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:

- 1) **e-mail address:** parkpame@isu.edu
- 2) **postal mail:**
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- 3) **telephone:** (208) 282-3740



KAPPA BETA devant l’Entrée du Petit Palais (de gauche à droite: Alex Baughman, Edith Täieb, Aaron Priest, Dominique Mougel, et Maud Nicolas)

MU ALPHA chapter of Pi Delta Phi at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota inducted five new members on October 17, 2006: Charles Buehler, Justine Ferguson, Justine Lueth, Kristen Pittenger and Amanda Rasmussen. The induction ceremony was followed by a campus-wide screening of *Arène Lupin* (2004). The chapter will help to sponsor several activities during the academic year, including a screening of *Joyeux Noël* (December), a Mardi

Gras bead sale and Cajun meal at the school cafeteria (February), Euro dance (co-sponsored by the German and Spanish honor societies and by the French, German and Spanish clubs) (late February), a cheese tasting (March), dinner at a French restaurant and attendance at *Le Mariage de Figaro* at the Théâtre de la Jeune Lune in Minneapolis (March), and senior Pi Delta Phi banquet (May). The faculty advisor for the Mu Alpha chapter is Dr. Scott Fish; the chapter web-site is: www.augie.edu/dept/mdfl/pdp/html



MU ALPHA (left to right) C. Buehler, K. Pittenger, J. Lueth, A. Rasmussen, J. Ferguson

NU ALPHA chapter from Minnesota State University in Mankato, MN sends the following photograph:



NU ALPHA chapter at Minnesota State University. From left to right: Tim Kirk, Nicole Johannson, Carlie Sauter

The Chapter Moderator at NU ALPHA is Dr. John Janc.



All of us from
PI DELTA PHI
wish you and
your chapter

*“Joyeux Noël
et
Bonne Année”*



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PI DELTA PHI

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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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