

FROM THE COMITIUM: President's Letter



¡Hola! As I end my two-year term as President of Phi Sigma Iota, I remain more optimistic than ever before about the future of language study in the United States and about the role of Phi Sigma Iota in both promoting and supporting language study. Our membership remains strong as is our commitment to their engagement in graduate and undergraduate language programs.

The continued financial health of Phi Sigma Iota organization allowed the Executive Board to award eleven scholarships to students whose proposals included requests to contribute funding for study abroad to Europe, South America and China along with attendance at an academic conference in order to present doctoral thesis research.

At the September 2017 meeting in Pittsburgh, the Executive Board continued discussions about arranging a PSI Convention for student members and chapter advisors in addition to the technology needed to involve national participants from PSI Chapters both on site and long distance. To this end, PSI will be circulating a survey to chapter advisors this year in order to aid planning for this important event.

On behalf of the Executive Board, I salute Chapter Advisors for their dedication to their student members and to the values espoused by Phi Sigma Iota in regard to the promotion of excellence in foreign language education. I especially salute PSI students for their hard work and for their many academic accomplishments as they further their understanding of other cultures through the study of language in our multicultural world. ¡Saludos!

All the best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joan F. Marx".

Joan F. Marx
President, PSI
January 2018



Executive Committee Members, Annual Meeting, Sept. 16, 2017

From left: Fabian Balmori, 1st VP elect; Kristen Hetrick, Sec.; Mirna Trauger, Pres. elect; Roz Macken, Admin. Dir.; Joan Marx, Pres.; Virginia Shen, 2nd VP; Phillip Wolfe, Finance Committee Chair

Phi Sigma Iota Scholarships

Application forms for both Collegiate and Alumni/Professional Members can be found on the “Scholarships” link on the Society’s website, <http://phisigmaiota.org>. The submission deadline for all applications is March 31, 2018.

Federal Civil Service Benefits

Phi Sigma Iota is a member of the Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS), and as such, **members of our Society are eligible for a higher, GS-7 starting salary rank for positions in the Federal Service.** Here's a link to the Operating Manual page for the US Office of Personnel Management that gives the details. <http://www.opm.gov/qualifications/policy/ApplicationOfStds-04.asp>. **See the annual salary chart to compare what a difference this makes!** <http://www.federaljobs.net/salarybase.htm>

If you work full-time in a public service job, you may qualify for Public Service Loan Forgiveness!

See if you qualify here: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/charts/public-service>

Scholarships and Awards for Members of Honor Societies

Phi Sigma Iota’s Member Resources page also has information on scholarships and awards available to members of any honor society belonging to the Association of College of Honor Societies (ACHS), a coordinating organization that maintains high standards, monitors, advises, and certifies the quality of member honor societies. For additional information, see also www.achsntl.org.

We invite you to our new online skill-share and mentoring community

What is VineUp and How do I Join? To join the community simply visit <http://phisigmaiota.org> and click on the VineUp link. You will have the options to register manually or connect via your Facebook or LinkedIn accounts, making registration and updating of your profile information easy. During your registration process you will be prompted to enter the special access code provided to you in an email. This code will only be requested once and you will not need to memorize it. Once you have completed the steps you will have to verify your email address then, once your profile has been approved by our administrators, you will be able to access the community. The platform has a mobile ready interface, so there is no need to download any apps. It works smoothly and easily on all devices and browsers.

Beware of Bogus Organizations

from the Information Committee of The Association of College Honor Societies

This letter addresses the issue of “bogus” organizations claiming to be honor societies, which has posed very real problems over the years not only for our own societies, but for students who are confused and paying fees to groups they did not intend to pay. This letter also promotes the value of ACHS standards and certification.

Honor Societies have existed as a part of the higher education tradition since 1885. In 1925 the Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS) was established to help colleges and universities assess the value and credibility of these organizations.

Over the past few years there have been several groups that have emerged that are calling themselves an honor society but do not meet the standards to be certified by the Association of College Honor Societies. Based on the calls and questions that come to the ACHS office, these organizations are marketing themselves as honor societies and possibly creating confusion for students.

In order to help students and administrators make more informed decisions, the Association of College Honor Societies asks that you ask or assess these basic questions before determining any organization to be an honor society:

- **ACHS certification** – this link lists all member honor societies that are certified and meet the standards: <http://achsnatl.org/member-directory.asp>
- **Minimum scholastic standards for membership** – make sure there is a reason that the student is being honored and is not just being invited to join a group with no standards or criteria for membership.
- **Non-profit status** – a certified honor society will always be a non-profit, 501 c3, organization. Don't be deceived by the organization having a .org website address. These groups often don't disclose that they are for-profit in their marketing materials. You have to ask them, or you can check here: <https://www.guidestar.org/Home.aspx>.
- **Campus chapters** – make sure the organization is a registered and recognized chapter on your campus with on-campus leadership from students and/or faculty.
- **Fees** – all collegiate honor societies have a membership fee. The fee may be solicited from the invited student or, in some cases, paid for by the institution. Having a fee is comparable to your institution having tuition. The key factor is that the student should be paying to affiliate with an organization that has been certified to meet high standards the same way your institution has been accredited.
- **Transparency** – check the organization's website to make sure that it states it is a non-profit and that there is a phone number and address listed. Is there a listing of a functioning board who provides oversight to the organization?
- **Member participation in governance** – are members of the organization involved in governing the organization?

You can find more information about legitimate honor societies at www.achsnatl.org

Please help us share this with individuals on your campus who can help students make better informed decisions.

Show pride in your Society membership with the purchase of a variety of logo merchandise from our new on-line CafePress store at

<http://www.cafepress.com/phisigmaiota1>.



Clothing

T-Shirts, Sweatshirts, Caps



Mugs, Glasses, Coasters, Pillows

Choose mugs, glasses, coasters, pillows, and sports bottles



Buttons, Decals, Magnets, & Stickers

Show pride in your Society membership with buttons, decals, magnets and stickers



Tote Bags, Note Cards & Ornaments

Pack it all up in our tote bag, send a note to a friend with our note cards and display a Phi Sigma Iota ornament.



iPad Covers & Phone Cases

Protect your electronic devices with these covers and cases.



Jewelry

Charms, key chains, earrings, necklaces, and other jewelry items.

Congratulations!

The Fellowship Board of Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society, announces **Mikayla G. Walters, Phi Sigma Iota member at the University of South Alabama** was chosen as one of 25 engineering students from 312 applicants for graduate fellowships in 2017-18. Mikayla was awarded a Zimmerman Fellowship to receive a cash stipend of \$10,000 for advanced study in the field of chemical engineering. All Tau Beta Pi Fellowships are awarded on the competitive criteria of high scholarship, campus leadership and service, and promise of future contributions to the engineering profession. Tau Beta Pi was founded at Lehigh University in 1885. It has collegiate chapters at 246 engineering colleges in the United States and active alumni chapters in 42 cities. It has initiated more than 580,000 members in its 132-year history and is the world's largest engineering society.

Dr. Susan Huffman, National President of Alpha Lambda Delta National Honor Society for First-Year Students, announced that **Julia Steffen, Phi Sigma Iota member at Northern Kentucky University** is the recipient of the Barbara Quilling Graduate Fellowship in the amount of \$5,000. Graduate Fellowships have been in place since 1940, awarding 26 Alpha Lambda Delta members thinking about pursuing a graduate or professional degree program. Alpha Lambda Delta is a national honor society that recognizes students' academic success in their first year at a college or university. Founded in 1924, Alpha Lambda Delta is present on over 280 campuses nationwide. Alpha Lambda Delta's mission is to "encourage superior academic achievement, to promote intelligent living and a continued high standard of learning, and to assist students in recognizing and developing meaningful goals for their unique roles in society."