



ΠΣΑ ΠΙ ΣΙΓΜΑ ΑΛΦΑ

THE NATIONAL POLITICAL SCIENCE HONOR SOCIETY

Chapter Annual Report Cover Sheet

Deadline: June 30 (annually)

Chapters are required to submit an annual report to the national office which identifies key student officers and chapter advisor, and lists the chapter's activities for the past year. The information in this report is used to select the winners of the Best Chapter Awards, so chapters should take care to make them as complete as possible.

<u>Delta Omega</u>	<u>Purdue University</u>
CHAPTER GREEK NAME	INSTITUTION NAME
<u>Natasha Duncan</u>	<u>August 2014</u>
CHAPTER FACULTY ADVISOR	CHAPTER ADVISOR START DATE
<u>29,497</u>	<u>6 initiates on April 18, 2016</u>
TOTAL INSTITUTION UNDERGRAD ENROLLMENT	TOTAL INITIATES and INITIATION DATE (2014-15)
<u>Dept. of Political Science support and/or dues collected</u>	<u>\$400.00</u>
ANNUAL BUDGET	CASH ON HAND

2015-16 STUDENT OFFICERS (IF APPLICABLE)

Shawn Carr
PRESIDENT

Michael Turinetti
VICE PRESIDENT

N/A
SECRETARY

Michael Brannigan
TREASURER

2016-17 STUDENT OFFICERS (IF APPLICABLE)

Michael Turinetti
PRESIDENT

Adam Hassanein
VICE PRESIDENT

Melissa Deach
SECRETARY

Lauren Feagler
TREASURER

MARK ANY PI SIGMA ALPHA PROGRAMS THAT YOUR CHAPTER OR CHAPTER MEMBERS APPLIED FOR DURING 2015-16

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHAPTER ACTIVITY GRANT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STUDENT CONFERENCE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNDERGRADUATE JOURNAL OF POLITICS
<input type="checkbox"/> GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP	<input type="checkbox"/> INTERNSHIP SCHOLARSHIP	<input type="checkbox"/> BEST PAPER OR THESIS COMPETITION

On a separate piece of paper please describe the activities of your chapter over the course of the past year including:

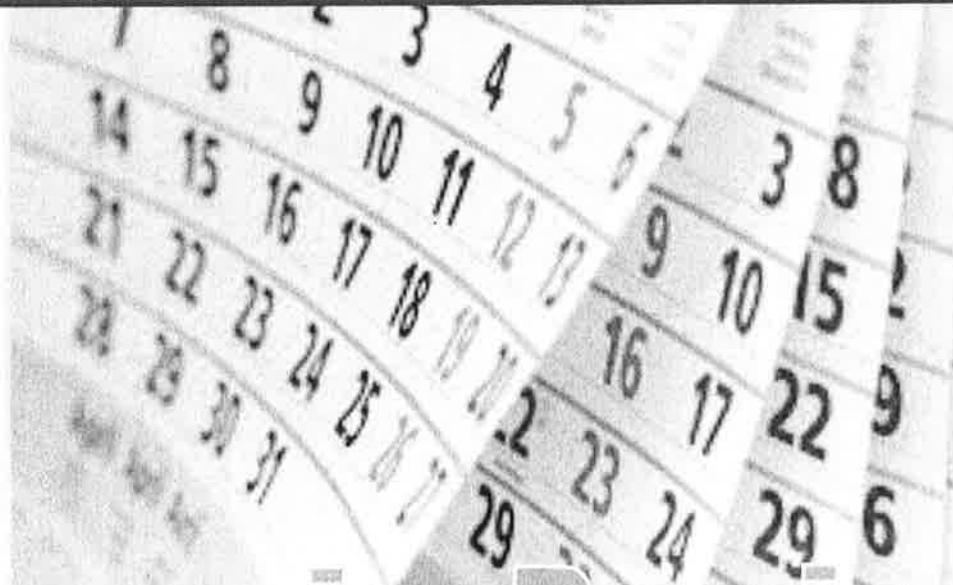
- Programs sponsored by your chapter (including whether the programs were for members only, for department only, or for the university community or public).
- Any other notable activities during the academic year.
- Be descriptive! We want to learn as much about your activities as possible

PLEASE RETURN FORM AND SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS TO NATIONAL OFFICE VIA
EMAIL (OFFICE@PISIGMAALPHA.ORG) OR
POSTAL SERVICE (1527 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVE., NW WASHINGTON, DC 20036)

PI SIG



Pi Sigma Alpha, Delta Omega Chapter



Year in Review

Read about our exciting activities for academic year 2015-16.

Over the past year, our members have participated in a number of rich experiences that serve to reinforce lessons studied in the classroom and develop their professionalism and worldview. With the support of the Department of Political Science, the College of Liberal Arts, and Pi Sigma Alpha National Office, they've traveled domestically and

internationally; designed and conducted research in the field; attended and presented at a national conference; and hosted on-campus talks and a debate. Each experience enriched members and the wider campus community.

In this edition of *Pi Sig*, students give insight into their experiences in the various opportunities in which they participated.

MUNUR15

For five days, our students participated in the international Model UN at Universidad del Rosario in Bogota, Colombia.

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Iowa Caucuses

Our students had first hand observations of campaigns and electoral participation in the field in Iowa.

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Research

At the Pi Sigma Alpha National Conference in Washington, DC, Michael Turinetti and Sarah Weaver present their research.

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MUNUR15 Bogota, Colombia



COMMITTEES ON WHICH OUR MEMBERS PARTICIPATED & COUNTRIES THEY REPRESENTED.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

❖ **JUSTICE**

AFRICAN UNION

❖ **RWANDA**

SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE 1945

❖ **PHILIPPINES**

SPECIAL POLITICAL & DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE

❖ **PHILIPPINES**

❖ **EL SALVADOR**

With the generous support of the Department of Political Science and the Dean of Liberal Arts, five students of Purdue's Pi Sigma Alpha chapter traveled with Dr. Duncan to Bogota Colombia to participate in MUNUR15, a model United Nations tournament at the Universidad del Rosario. Each student was assigned a country and, to prepare for the competition, they researched a specific aspect of that country's history or foreign relations. After several weeks of research the team made its way down to Colombia for the tournament.

While the purpose for the trip was rooted in competition, the students were immediately immersed in an atmosphere of a different culture that yielded more knowledge of the world and global community than did researching their countries online over the past few weeks. Meeting students from different countries and learning about their different experiences and opinions about issues facing the world opened up a new perspective for our students. Many people in the United States tend to think about global issues just through the lenses of our

country, but being exposed to how others viewed the same issues created an excellent learning environment for the students.

While participating in the tournament, our students debated the tenants of international trade and global security and outside of the tournament the students learned about the rich history of Colombia and experienced what the great country had to offer.

This was a life changing experience for those who participated: not only did they expand their knowledge of comparative and international politics, but they also developed a deeper understanding than they ever could have had they just read about these issues instead of actively participating and immersing themselves in international affairs.





Field Research in Iowa

Members of Pi Sigma Alpha, Communications students, and Prof. Joshua Scacco pose for the picture.

The trip to the Iowa Caucus for the Delta Omega Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha was an unforgettable experience. Accompanied by Prof. Josh Scacco, members spent five-days in Des Moines and Ames, Iowa observing the “first in the nation” caucus and conducting research. The research examined which characteristics voters wanted in a candidate in comparison to their choice in the caucus.

Our president, Shawn Carr, came up with the idea of the trip. He envisioned it as a means of helping enhance the political knowledge of students. The students would go to the various political rallies over the course of the five days to collect data while also meeting the candidates and hearing them in person.

In Iowa, our students met Senator Marco

Rubio, Carly Fiorina, Senator Bernie Sanders, Governor Mike Huckabee, Senator Rand Paul, Governor Chris Christie, and Secretary Hillary Clinton.



From the students’ perspective the best part of the trip was getting up close with the candidates and talking briefly to them. Another interesting part of the trip was seeing how a state like Iowa becomes a circus once an election rolls in. While one would expect the state to be busy the entire time we were there, in actuality, it did not become busy until the day of the caucus. 3

Finally, the ability to talk to Iowans about the election and hear who they believe is best fit to lead the country was something none of us will forget. That is just as interesting as seeing the candidates themselves. Many of the people we talked to said they went to all rallies even though they were leaning to a particular candidate as they wanted to hear what each one had to say in person.



Overall, the trip was one the organization is proud to have imaged, help create, and make happen.

Going forward, an experience like the Iowa Caucus Field Research trip is something we would like to make a staple part of the organization. Such hands-on opportunities enrich students' experiences at Purdue University and in the Department of Political Science. They also help bring awareness to what Pi Sigma Alpha does.

Check out local & national news coverage of our events.

Iowa Research Experience

WTHR, NBC Indianapolis

"Decision 2016: Constant calls"

CBS 4, Indianapolis

"Purdue University students arrive to poll Iowa voters ahead of caucuses"

CSPAN

(advance to 13.59 minutes into the video)

The Exponent

"Students experience electric atmosphere at Iowa caucus"

Red vs. Blue

The Exponent

"Students engage in political debate"

Super Tuesday Viewing Party

WLFJ, West Lafayette

"Super Tuesday brings together young voters at Purdue"

Indianapolis Star

"Super Tuesday: Purdue watch party draws political junkies"

The Exponent

"President Daniels and PBS host to attend Super Tuesday party"

"Pizza and Politics: Super Tuesday viewing party prompts discussion"

Purdue Review

"Super Tuesday watch party open to students"

Producing & Presenting Scholarship

Over Valentine's Day weekend this past February, the Delta Omega chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha from Purdue University sent six undergraduate students to Washington D.C. to participate in the annual Pi Sigma Alpha Undergraduate Research Conference located at George Washington University. After arrival, we spent the first day sightseeing, complete with tours of the White House, the Pentagon and the Supreme Court. These are the very institutions we study in our courses and therefore well worth the opportunity to visit them in person. For some of us this is the first time we were able to visit these important sites for our nation and in our studies of politics.

The next day was spent at the research conference, in which two Purdue students presented and four observed. Sarah Weaver presented a literature review of "The Effectiveness of State Control over Social Welfare: Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF)" and Michael Turinetti presented a study of "Social Capital, Social Media, and the Millennial Vote." The conference gave all of us the unique opportunity to learn from the work of our political science peers around the country as well as provided valuable feedback on our work from political science graduate students of George Washington University.

This experience at the conference motivated us to become more involved in doing original political science research through Pi Sigma Alpha and Purdue's Political Science department. Listening to the presentations of other political science students, we found ourselves thoroughly engaged and curious about new aspects of political science that we had not considered as often as others.

During the final day of our trip, we met with Purdue University political science alumni to make connections and learn about what they were doing in Washington D.C. This was a great opportunity to network and also learn more about the possibilities out there for political science graduates. Although short, the Purdue University Delta Omega chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha trip to Washington D.C. served as a chance to not only share and celebrate our own hard work, but to see what is possible for the future in terms of the quality of original research undergraduates are capable of creating and career opportunities in political science.



Abstracts

"Social Capital, Social Media, and the Millennial Vote"



What effect does the cultivation and maintenance of social capital, both through traditional means and recently created mediums, have on the voting patterns of the Millennial generation? This research examines the effects of non-traditional sources of social capital and community coalition building on the Millennial vote.

"The Effectiveness of State Control over Social Welfare"

The effectiveness of Temporary Aid for Needy Families is questioned by many groups lobbying for or against cutting components of the program. Based on a review of research on TANF, studies find that the program is ineffective due to the level of state control over recipient eligibility and program benefits.

Super Tuesday comes to Purdue

On March 1 2016, Pi Sigma Alpha, in coordination with the Department of Political Science, the Purdue Honors College, and the Brian Lamb School of Communication, cohosted a watch party for students, faculty, and community members to attend. As anyone who even casually follows politics during an election year knows, Super Tuesday is a consequential day for each candidate and their supporters. Thirteen states and one territory can set the tone for the rest of the primaries. For some, it signaled the end of their campaigns. For others, it was an opportunity to jump ahead in the delegate count and move one step closer to clinching the nomination.

The event sought to bring the energy of this event to Purdue's campus for fellow Boilermakers to experience. Groups of attendees sat in clustered, lab-style seating to

promote conversation as the night went on. Televisions with various newscasts surrounded the room in each corner. A panel featuring faculty members answered questions about process and strategy, drawing on their own expertise in American political behavior and campaigns. Another panel included PBS' Alexander Heffner and our own President Mitch Daniels. The production was also streamed live online for anyone within the local and global community to participate in this event. And of course, there was food. Plenty of food. To be in that room was to experience Super Tuesday.

For Pi Sigma Alpha's part, some members kept an eye on returns as they developed questions for panelists to answer. Some members had the privilege of

being interviewed by local media on the importance of Super Tuesday, as well as about the event and Pi Sigma Alpha's role in its planning and execution.

Our experience with this event was outstanding. Purdue is not known for being a particularly political campus, so gathering a group of interested students, faculty, and community members in one place offered a unique opportunity to discuss and debate the candidates and issues.

We look forward to the next watch party in November. It one promises to be even more engaging, especially given the current political atmosphere. Planning has already begun. Be sure to keep an eye out for the link to our live stream on November 8.

What are the Experts Saying?

The Pi Sigma Alpha Lecture Series

This past 2015-2016 academic year, our Delta Omega chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha worked to implement a professor lecture series into our meetings. The goal of the professor lecture series is to bring in Purdue professors from our department in order for our members and political science students to meet faculty and become more familiar with potential research opportunities. Dr. Bryce Reeder was one professor who participated in our lecture series.

Dr. Bryce Reeder spent this year at Purdue as a visiting assistant professor. He taught both introductory and upper level courses last year, making him a valuable contact for a wide range of students. His research mostly focuses on political violence, mainly internal wars and how interactions between states play a role in internal wars.

Dr. Bryce Reeder came to one of our weekly chapter meetings and gave a brief lecture to our organization about his research on internal wars. In his talk he focused mainly on internal state warfare and armed conflict in Africa, and how state interactions can influence these events. He offered his take on state intervention in times of civil war, and how this can sometimes lead to worse situations than may have been had without the external intervention. He also went into detail on the relationship between civil wars and the severity of armed conflicts in African states.

Overall, the professor lecture series is an important aspect of the Delta Omega chapter at Purdue University. It gives faculty and students the chance to connect on a more personal level. Students are also able to use these special meetings as a time to make contacts with professors, which may be useful for acquiring research assistant opportunities. With his talk on international relations, Dr. Reeder was a wonderful addition to our professor lecture series this past year. Students were both interested in and able to make connections with the presentation and the professor himself, which is just the goal of the guest lecture series.

Contact us



Pi Sigma Alpha
Purdue



@Purdue_PSA

Beering Hall of
Liberal Arts,
Room 2255

Red vs. Blue

The College Dems and Republicans Debate the Issues

On April 12th, 2016, Pi Sigma Alpha, in conjunction with the Purdue University College Republicans and the Purdue College Democrats, hosted "Pi Sigma Alpha Presents Red vs. Blue: The Debate at Purdue." This event responded to general student consensus that both the Democratic and Republican primary debates had been dominated by sound bites and general discord. Students sought answers, but the candidates hardly ever offered any. As such, the Red vs. Blue debate sought to provide those answers by highlighting the big topics and providing an opportunity to the party organizations to outline and debate their respective platforms.

The hour-and-a-half long event featured questions and debate surrounding healthcare, national security, gun ownership, the environment, immigration, and others. While the debate moderators posed questions to the candidates representing the College Dems and Republicans, the debaters fielded questions from the audience submitted via Twitter.

The turnout at the debate was remarkable. Although students were in the throes of their courses, roughly 75 of them turned out. Due to the success of the event, plans are in the works to continue hosting the debates as a series during the general election, with each debate focusing on a singular issue.

More Events

Democracy,

February 23-25, 2016

Pi Sigma Alpha was one of several civic-centered student organizations on campus invited to educate the campus community on the exercise of democratic values and functioning of institutions in the United States. Students attending the 3-day expo had an opportunity to learn a variety of perspectives from their peers.

Women in the Cuban Revolution & Today,

April 2016

Cuban scholar, Norma Vasallo, delivered remarks on the role of women during the 1959 Cuban Revolution and the changed/continued place of women in Cuban society. We co-sponsored this guest lecture with the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program.

Saying Welcome, Thank You, and Good Luck

Induction, Awards, and Senior Recognition Ceremony



In April, Pi Sigma Alpha hosted its Induction and Awards Ceremony for the 2015-2016 academic. The evening started off with a wonderful Chinese dinner. After the meal, Shawn Carr, our outgoing President, addressed the professors and students, not only thanking them for their wonderful contributions to our organization, but also encouraging them to continue with their help and interest in Pi Sigma Alpha. We then welcomed new national member into the organization as well as local members. The best professor and teacher's assistant for the academic year were then awarded. Lastly we had a closing ceremony saying farewell and thank you to our graduating executive board and proceeded to welcome in the new board.

This experience was an amazing finale to a wonderful year full of exciting opportunities to learn and teach more about political science and the world. This ceremony helped to unite the incoming executive board in their future decisions for the organization as well as say goodbye to a wonderful executive board that not only expanded Pi Sigma Alpha, but also left a mark on Purdue University that will be remembered. Overall, this experience was marvelous and showed the impact that Pi Sigma Alpha has not only on members, but also on the lives of professors, staff, and students.

Award Recipients

Best Professor, Dr. Suzanne Parker

Best Teaching Assistant, Eliza Osorio Castro

Executive Boards

Outgoing 2015-16

Shawn Carr, President

Michael Turinetti, V. President

Michael Brannigan, Treasurer

Incoming 2016-17

Michael Turinetti, President

Adam Hassanein, V. President

Lauren Feagler, Treasurer

Melissa Deach, Secretary

Sarah Weaver, Marketing Coordinator

Advisor

Natasha T. Duncan



❖ **Contributors to this issue**

- ❖ Michael Brannigan
“Blue vs. Red”

- ❖ Shawn Carr
“Field Research in Iowa”

- ❖ Melissa Deach
“Saying Welcome, Thank You, and Good Luck”

- ❖ Lauren Feagler
“What are the Experts Saying?”

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“Super Tuesday comes to Purdue”