



PI SIGMA ALPHA

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.

<p><u>Nu Omega</u> CHAPTER GREEK NAME</p> <p><u>Terri L. Towner</u> CHAPTER FACULTY ADVISOR</p> <p><u>20,000</u> TOTAL INSTITUTION UNDERGRAD ENROLLMENT</p> <p><u>\$3,000.00</u> ANNUAL BUDGET</p>	<p><u>Oakland University</u> INSTITUTION NAME</p> <p><u>2010</u> CHAPTER ADVISOR START DATE</p> <p><u>50; March 1, 2016</u> TOTAL INITIATES and INITIATION DATE (2014-15)</p> <p><u>\$500.00</u> CASH ON HAND</p>
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<p>2015-16 STUDENT OFFICERS (IF APPLICABLE)</p> <p><u>Amanda Stevens</u> PRESIDENT</p> <p><u>Nicholas Willis</u> VICE PRESIDENT</p> <p><u>Nate Catey</u> SECRETARY</p> <p><u>Ryan Dempsey</u> TREASURER</p>	<p>2016-17 STUDENT OFFICERS (IF APPLICABLE)</p> <p><u>Marissa Coloske</u> PRESIDENT</p> <p><u>Brain Quinn</u> VICE PRESIDENT</p> <p><u>Jana Alj</u> SECRETARY</p> <p><u>Joshua Koss</u> TREASURER</p>
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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 checked="" 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)



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

426 Varner Hall
Rochester, Michigan 48309-4488
(248) 370-2362 Fax: (248) 370-4299

<http://www2.oakland.edu/polisci/index.cfm>

June 8, 2016

Dear Mr. Twombly,

Below, I have provided the 2015-16 Annual Report for the Pi Sigma Alpha Nu Omega Chapter at Oakland University.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any national programs or services applied for during the academic year	<p>Pi Sigma Alpha Chapter Activity Grant 2015-2016 for the our 2016 Induction Ceremony at Meadow Brook Hall</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Programs sponsored during the academic year, including whether the programs were for members only, for department only, or for university community or public	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. In the month of September 2015, the Nu Omega Chapter launched a membership recruitment drive. Officers conducted brief presentations at the beginning of several Political Science classes, providing information about the Honorary and local chapter. In addition, a formal email was sent to all PS/IR/PA majors and minors who met the GPA and course requirements, inviting them to join the Honorary.2. On September 3, 2015, Pi Sigma Alpha participated in Oakland University's "Involvement Fair" during "Welcome Week." Nu Omega officers volunteered at a table, talking to new students about Political Science and the Honorary. Membership applications were also distributed. This event was open to Pi Sigma Alpha members and all OU students, faculty, and staff.3. On September 11-12, Pi Sigma Alpha officers volunteered for several hours at the annual "Arts, Beats, and Eats" festival in Rochester, Michigan. OU's Center for Student Activities and Organization encourages student organizations to volunteer at this event to advertise the university as well as the many student organizations at the university. In addition, for volunteering, the Center for Student Activities and

Organization deposits additional FLEX money the student organization's account.

4. On September 16, 2015, Pi Sigma Alpha members along with College Republicans held a Debate Watch Party at the Oakland Center for the first round Republican Debate. This informal gathering was open to Pi Sigma Alpha members, OU students, faculty, and staff.

5. On September 17, 2015, the Chapter hosted a "Constitution Day Quiz" for members on the Facebook group page. Pi Sigma Alpha encouraged members to test their Constitutional knowledge and win a \$5 gift card to Amazon.com. To win, they had to correctly answer all ten questions. Over 20 members participated in the quiz.

6. On September 26, 2015, Pi Sigma Alpha held our fourth annual faculty and student "Fall Mixer". This year, the event was bigger and better, including both the History and Political Science departments. The entire fourth floor of Varner Hall was occupied with informational tables with student organizations affiliated with History, Public Administration, and Political Science. New members, potential members, and Political Science faculty were free to inquire about the Honorary, discuss the Political Science major and minor at OU, and socialize in a casual setting with current Nu Omega members. A lunch of pizza and snacks was also served to participants. This event was open to Pi Sigma Alpha members, OU students, and the Political Science faculty.

7. On October 15, 2015, the Political Science Department, International Studies Program, and Pi Sigma Alpha co-sponsored a panel on "Refugee Crisis in Europe." This panel featured Political Science Professors Orces, Kubicek, and Cantir. Panelists discussed the refugee crisis in Europe. Light refreshments were provided. This event was open to Pi Sigma Alpha members and all OU students, faculty, and staff.

8. On October 29 and 30, two Pi Sigma Alpha presented their research on panels at the Michigan Political Science Association Conference at Aquinas College. Informally, many Nu Omega members attended panel sessions,

workshops, and keynote speaker sessions during the conference.

9. On October 24, 2015, Pi Sigma Alpha members participated in "Make a Difference Day!" Members volunteered as a student group for "Make a Difference Day!", signing up to volunteer at several charity groups: Gleaners Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity, and Affirmations. This service opportunity was open to Pi Sigma Alpha members, OU students, faculty, and staff, and the surrounding community and public.

10. On October 27, 2015, Nu Omega members were invited to "Halloween in the Hall". At this informal event, members watched the political thriller "The Manchurian Candidate" while eating Chipotle burritos and Halloween candy. This event was open to Nu Omega members.

11. On November 18, 2015, Pi Sigma Alpha sponsored a panel on the "The Iran Deal: What's Next? A Panel Discussion on the Iran Deal's Implications in International Politics Going Forward." Political Science Professors Matthews, Trumbore, and Kubicek served as panelists. This event was open to Pi Sigma Alpha members, OU students, faculty, and staff, and the surrounding community and public.

12. On December 5, 2015, Nu Omega members participated in a Saturday afternoon of board games. Members played "Twilight Struggle" -- often considered to be the best board game of all time according to analysts at fivethirtyeight. The game pits players against each other as the United States and the USSR, over the course of the Cold War, with the opportunity to rewrite history or ensure the fall of communism. Four game boards were utilized (provided or donated by PS faculty members), with four spots open on each board. Overall, 16 Nu Omega members and friends participated in this board game event. This event was open to Pi Sigma Alpha members, OU students, faculty, and staff, and the surrounding community and public.

13. Before President Obama's State of the Union address on January 20, 2016, the Pi Sigma Alpha Facebook group

page held a contest. Members were asked to guess the most frequent word said by President Obama during the official SOTU. The person who correctly guessed the most frequent word won a Pi Sigma Alpha coffee mug and an Amazon gift card. Over 20 members participated in this social networking event! This event was open to all members.

14. On January 26, 2016, Pi Sigma Alpha and College Democrats co-sponsored an informal discussion on “What’s Up With the Water?” at the Oakland Center to learn more about the Flint Water Crisis. This event was open to Pi Sigma Alpha members, OU students, faculty, and staff, and the surrounding community and public.

15. On January 28, 2016, Pi Sigma Alpha and the Political Science department co-sponsored a new event: “Speed Networking Event” at Meadow Brook Hall. This event was part of the new mentorship program, connecting current Political Science, International Relations, and Public Administration majors with some of the most successful alumni from the PS department. At the Speed Networking Event, each mentor and mentee had an opportunity to meet and engage with each other. Following the event, students were matched with a mentor for the remainder of the semester, where the expected time commitment was about 1-2 hours per month. Nu Omega co-sponsored and several members participated as mentees.

16. On January 27, February 17 and March 30, 2016, Pi Sigma Alpha co-sponsored a “Women and Politics Discussion Group”. This was new opportunity for an informal meeting place for women (and men) who are PS/IR/PA majors or minors to discuss issues relevant to them. This discussion group was organized and led by Nu Omega member, Alexa James. This event was open to Pi Sigma Alpha members, OU students, faculty, and staff.

17. On February 10, 2016, Pi Sigma Alpha held practice research presentation for four students presenting at the Pi Sigma Alpha National Research Conference in Washington D.C. Four Political Science faculty members attended these presentations and gave comments and

feedback. The event was open to Pi Sigma Alpha members and PS faculty.

18. On February 12-14, 2016, seven Nu Omega members attended and presented their original research at the second annual Pi Sigma Alpha National Undergraduate Conference in Washington D.C. The Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at OU generously funded travel costs for all seven members.

19. On March 1, 2016, Pi Sigma Alpha held an Annual Induction Ceremony and Dinner at Meadow Brook Hall. Pi Sigma Alpha invited Katherine Van Tiem as the keynote speaker. Katherine Van Tiem is the District Director for Congressman Mike Bishop's office and is the former president of the Pi Sigma Alpha Chapter at Central Michigan University. Congressman Mike Bishop was unable to attend the event, but Skyped into the dinner to congratulate the new inductees. The dinner included Pi Sigma Alpha members as well as Political Science faculty, students, alumni, (and some parents). Nu Omega initiated 50 new members at this event.

20. On March 3 and 6, 2016, Republican and Democratic primary debates were held in Michigan (one in downtown Detroit and the other in Flint, Michigan). While Pi Sigma Alpha did not formally sponsor these events, a large contingent of Nu Omega members attended these debates.

21. On March 3, 2016, Pi Sigma Alpha co-sponsored a Political Science Research Forum Presentation featuring Nu Omega member Mathew Kunz and Professor Asmussen. Mathew Kunz and Professor Asmussen presented their work "Who Do Parties Recruit?" Refreshments were provided by the Nu Omega chapter. The research talk was open to all Pi Sigma Alpha members as well as Political Science faculty, students, and staff.

22. On March 8, 2016, the Pi Sigma Alpha Facebook group page held a "voting selfie" contest. Members were encouraged to take selfies while voting, standing in line at the ballot box, or with their "I Voted" sticker. Two

“voting selfie” pictures was randomly selected to win a Pi Sigma Alpha coffee mug and Amazon gift card. Twenty members participated in this social networking event! This event was open to all Nu Omega members as well as Nu Omega alums.

23. On March 14, 2016 (a.k.a. Pi Day), the Pi Sigma Alpha Faculty Advisor encouraged members to stop by her office for apple and peach pies. Of course, members had to provide the secret password (“I Love Pi Sigma Alpha”) in order to obtain free pie. Overall, 15 pies were handed out to Nu Omega members.

24. On March 24, 2016, Pi Sigma Alpha co-sponsored the International Affairs Meadow Brooke Lecture featuring Professor Drezner. He spoke on the GeoPolitics of Cheap Oil. Refreshments were provided. Prior to the research talk, several Pi Sigma Alpha members attended a private dinner with Professor Drezner. The research talk was open to Pi Sigma Alpha members, OU students, faculty, and staff, as well as the surrounding community.

25. On March 31, 2016, Pi Sigma Alpha held its signature event for its third consecutive year: “The Elephant in the Room” Debate on Communism/Marxist Thought. The events was advertised: “Whether it’s in the media, our education system, or at your own dining room table, certain topics and perspectives are simply written off as taboo or generally misunderstood. If you feel like political discussions are too often framed in a way which limited the scope of our collective understanding, then please enjoy light refreshments and conversation as you join as in this series.” This debate featured Professor Alan Epstein (a student favorite!) from the Political Science Department, informally debating communist ideals and Marxist thought. The debate was open to Pi Sigma Alpha members, OU students, faculty, and staff, as well as the surrounding community.

26. On April 4, 2016, officer elections were held for the 2016-2017 academic year. Four officers were elected by the membership.

28. On April 7-10, 2016, five Nu Omega members, Zuzanna Gos, Jenna Blankenship, Mikaela Strech,

Megan Hoberg, and Jaqueline Yee, presented their research at the 2016 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Three of these students also served as panelists on the “Meet the Editors” Round Table, representing the Editorial Board for the Pi Sigma Alpha Undergraduate Journal of Politics.

27. In late April 2016, Pi Sigma Alpha members ended the 2015-16 academic year with an informal dinner for members at Buddy’s Pizza. This event was open to all current and former Pi Sigma Alpha members as well as PS faculty.

28. On May 2-3, 2016, a photo contest was held on the Nu Omega Facebook group page. The Chapter’s faculty advisor encouraged those graduating members to post photos of themselves – in full regalia including Pi Sigma Alpha honor cords – on the Facebook group page. Two winners were randomly selected to receive a \$15.00 Amazon gift card. This social media event was very popular, as many graduation photos were posted! This event was open to all graduating Nu Omega members.

- **Awards/Recognitions**

Pi Sigma Alpha members were honored with both departmental and university-wide awards this year:

1. Pi Sigma Alpha member, Jaqueline Yee, received the 2016 Oakland University Matilda Wilson Award, which is the most prestigious university-wide award bestowed to students. This award acknowledges her academic excellence, leadership, and dedication to OU. The OU Board of Trustees noted that Jaqueline’s commitment to student organizations, such as Pi Sigma Alpha, set her above other applicants.
2. Three Pi Sigma Alpha members, Haris Cogo, Ryan Dempsey, and Natalia Boyko, each received \$1,000.00 scholarships from Oakland University’s Political Science Department this year. The Political Science Department only offers three scholarships (Alumni Scholarship, Political Science Faculty Scholarship, and the Kochenderfer Scholarship) each

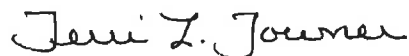
year. The application process for these scholarships is extensive and competitive.

- **Officers' Closing Remarks**

The Nu Omega Chapter boasts another successful academic year Oakland University. Most notably, the Chapter inducted its second largest number of members – 50 members – since Nu Omega was chartered in 1983. Due to increased membership, the Chapter decided to move the annual induction dinner and ceremony from the fall to the spring/winter. The leadership felt that this was better timing, particularly to honor new members and congratulate graduating seniors. The Nu Omega chapter continues to grow at an impressive pace. Again, the year was filled with many intellectually stimulating events, activities, and debates. A majority of events were well attended by members and non-members. In addition, the Chapter continues to host the *Pi Sigma Alpha Undergraduate Journal of Politics* for another 3-year term. This academic year, the *Journal* had an Editorial Board of around 17 members in the fall and winter semesters. Next year, the Nu Omega chapter intends to capitalize on the November general elections, holding several debate watch parties, exit polling, volunteering, panels, and talks. The new leadership has also expressed interest in involving more of the surrounding community at Pi Sigma Alpha events.

Please let me know if you require any additional information.

Best regards,



Terri L. Towner
Associate Professor
Pi Sigma Alpha Faculty Advisor



The Elephant In The Room

**Communism/Marxist Thought
Thursday, March 31st at 4:30 PM
Wilson Hall, Room 105**

Whether it's in the media our education system,
or at your own dining room table, certain topics and
perspectives are simply written off as taboo or generally
misunderstood.

If you feel like political discussions are too often framed
in a way which limits the scope of our collective understanding,
then please enjoy light refreshments and conversation as
you join us in this series.

This friendly debate is brought to you by
Pi Sigma Alpha - OU's Political Science Honor Society

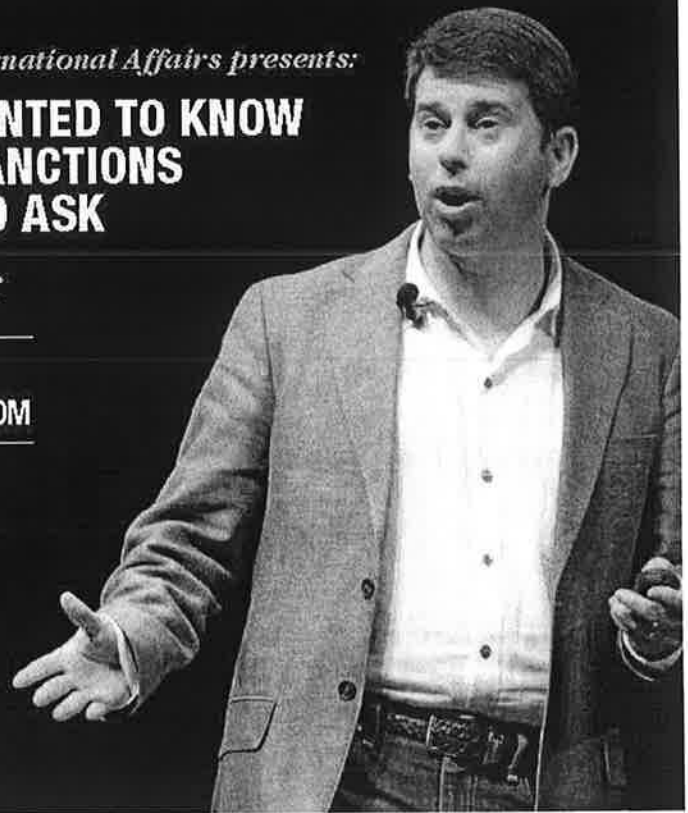
Meadow Brook Lecture in International Affairs presents:

**EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW
ABOUT ECONOMIC SANCTIONS
BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK**

by Dr. Daniel Drezner

THURSDAY, MARCH 24 | 7 P.M.
MEADOW BROOK HALL, BALLROOM

OAKLAND
UNIVERSITY





THE POLITICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH FORUM PRESENTS:

Who Do Parties Recruit? The Case of GOPAC in the 1992 Elections

Nicole Asmussen &
Mathew Kunz
Department of Political Science

Thursday, March 3, 2016

Varner 479

12 – 1pm

The Iran Deal: What's Next?

A Panel Discussion on the Iran Deal's Implications in International Politics going forward

Featuring

Don Matthews – History | Peter Trumbore – Political Science | Paul Kubicek – Political Science

Presented
by



Pizza and Pop
will be served!

Wednesday
November 18th
2015
12 – 1 p.m.

206 Varner

