



# MEDALLION

SPECIAL EDITION

*Phi Beta Delta, Honor Society for International Scholars*



## *Why an International Honor Society?*

### In this Publication:

- ◆ Why An Honor Society?
- ◆ What are the benefits of membership?
- ◆ What are its purposes?
- ◆ Who are the members?
- ◆ What does PBD mean to the members?
- ◆ What does PBD mean for your campus?
- ◆ Who are the PBD leaders?

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Since 9/11, it has taken the efforts of many to make internationalism in the U.S. rise up again. And now, in a time where SEVIS has been mastered, where international enrollments have stabilized, in some cases increased, and where the focus on the topic of immigration often has negative ramifications we must continue to find beacons of light.

**Phi Beta Delta** shares a beacon of light along with many other organizations seeking to enhance the international and intercultural competencies for those who study abroad. For example, NAFSA's role is well understood. The American Council on Education has an internationalization Assessment effort, and the International Association of Universities helps its members under-

stand the nature of internationalization.

**Purpose:** The beacon of light Phi Beta Delta shares is based on the premise that *high achievement in support of international educational exchange must be recognized.*

**Recognition:** Phi Beta Delta seeks to recognize domestic and international: *faculty, staff, visiting scholars, graduate and undergraduate students.* This recognition is a powerful statement that brings many diverse peoples together. High academic achievement, research with international implications, and personal efforts to improve understanding between peoples of the world are the signature components of recognition.

**Synergy:** As you know, Greek letter organizations

are divided into social, academic, and service societies. Phi Beta Delta is an academic society that can serve in an advocacy role on and off-campus. In addition, it is not tied to any one specific area of study; rather it is interdisciplinary and tied to the idea of recognizing excellence in internationalism. The result is a potential for synergy on the campus.

**Internationalization:** Once recognized, the synergy continues as the campus chapter engages the university community in the recognition of the value of internationalism, in articulation of issues of the day, in expressions of their members' research, and in the offering of a variety of potential programs and services.

**Globalization:** Phi Beta Delta on a campus is the glue that holds global edu-

## Benefits of a Chapter on Your Campus

- Recognition of academic excellence
- Support for International Educational Exchange
- Awards and Scholarships
- Contacts among members

## Phi Beta Delta Recognizes Faculty

**Embracing Intercultural Competency and the Curriculum:** The 2007 Outstanding Faculty Award went to professor Thomas Knutson of the California State University, Sacramento. Upon receipt of the award, Dr. Knutson remarked: "I started my international activities over forty years ago when Professor Robert B. Bailey III, Professor of Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls influenced me to study and live with a German family in the snows of Northern Germany. From them, I learned one of life's most important lessons: "Differences are not dangerous." The familie Derikartz taught me so much."

*An example of Professor Knutson's life work and impact is detailed below in remarks from the Sacramento State Bulletin.*

Through Knutson's dedicated efforts to provide a memorable work and study abroad experience,

four Sacramento State students have spent the past year assisting in the English language program at Chitralada Royal Palace School in Bangkok, Thailand. And the rare experience has not gone unnoticed. Knutson recently received the 2007 Award for Outstanding Contributions to International Education from Phi Beta Delta, the Honor Society for International Scholars. Knutson's activities to enable the University's students to study and work abroad, as well as his research on rhetorical sensitivity and the role it plays in interpersonal communication between people from different cultures, were the key reasons he received the award.

In early 2006, Professor Knutson heard that the Royal Palace School needed English language teaching assistants. He enlisted the help and support of Professor Richard Adams of the English Department and, after a lot

of paperwork and more than a few phone calls, they were able to secure four places for Sacramento State students at the royal school last May. "Chitralada officials had high praise and not a single complaint about our students," says Knutson. "It was a real tribute to the fine caliber of Sacramento State's students."

The Thai school, situated within the grounds of the royal family's Bangkok residence, admits students from all walks of life and social levels. It has 1,700 students, ranging in age from elementary through high school. Before the students went to Thailand, they were required to enroll in a "pre-departure program" which familiarized them with Thai cultural values and effective interpersonal communication behaviors.

Knutson, who has had more than 100 articles

*Continued on page 7*



**Communication Professor Thomas Knutson 2007 Outstanding Faculty Award**

### Purposes of Phi Beta Delta

- ◆ Recognizes scholarly achievement
- ◆ Develops international programming
- ◆ Provides a network of faculty, staff, and students

## Why an International Honor Society? continued

cation together. It offers a way of bringing together all faculty, staff, scholars, and students who are interested in international dimensions and sharing their experiences. After all, it is difficult to find the time to physically get out of one's department or office, given the workload in education, but talking with faculty, administrators, staff, and students across the campus is important as such communications generate and uphold the vitality of an educational institution.

## *Sample Abstracts from Conference Presentations*

A full listing of Abstracts can be found at: <http://www.phibetadelta.org/index.php/Publications-/Conference-Abstracts.html>

**TITLE:** *Utilizing Videoconferencing to Develop Emotional Awareness in Cross-Cultural Communication*

**PRESENTER:**

Zita Zoltayne Paprika, PhD

Program Director of International Study Programs and  
Chair of the Department of Decision Sciences, Faculty of Business Administration,  
Corvinus University of Budapest.

**ABSTRACT**

The current teaching methods in cross-cultural business communication have paid relatively less attention to developing students' emotional skills in cross-cultural interactions. Prior research, however, suggests that cross-cultural interactions are inherently emotional processes, since they involve a considerable amount of uncertainty and a potential for misunderstanding. With an attempt to fill this gap, this study aimed to design an easy-to-implement teaching module that brings emotions and emotional awareness more centrally into analysis of cross-cultural business communication, and to empirically assess the effectiveness of this module based on the data collected from students who participated in the process. To this end a collaboration was initiated between the business schools of a Hungarian university in Budapest and an American university in Northern California, by utilizing the videoconferencing and screen-capture technologies.

The results of the study suggested that the videoconferencing technology could be a viable tool to create real-time interactions between students in different countries in which they can experience, express, and observe emotions. In our videoconferencing sessions, the dynamics that emerged among the students provoked a wide-range of emotions, which helped them learn more about cross-cultural communication as reflected on why they have felt these emotions. Thus, students who participated in the teaching module not only gained a first-hand experience in cross-cultural communication, but also could build on this experience to gain knowledge by reflecting on their observations and emotions. **Editor's Note:** This paper is currently under review for publishing in the *Journal of Management Education*.

**TITLE:** *Global Media Coverage: How the Agendas of Middle-Eastern and American Students were shaped during the 2008 Presidential Campaign*

**PRESENTERS:**

Iti Agnihotri  
Master's candidate and associate professor  
University of Louisiana at Lafayette

William R. Davie  
Associate Professor  
University of Louisiana at Lafayette

**ABSTRACT:**

The U.S. presidential race of 2008 was definitive with respect to both Senators Obama and McCain's policies and personas (Source: *WashingtonPost.com*). Their campaigns addressed a variety of issues of importance to global affairs. Given the U.S. incursion in Middle Eastern politics, the nominees' profiles and policies figured prominently in the coverage of both American and Arab news media (Source: *AlJazeera.net, Middle East Times.com*).

Understanding the differences between American and international news agendas may explain some of the intercultural influences that are a part of today's news reality. During the campaign, U.S. and international media covered the war on terror in Iraq and Afghanistan, along with crises in energy and the economy. This study compares and contrasts the agendas influencing young people's opinions in the Middle East and the United States in order to determine the extent to which issue coverage played a role with regard to candidate preference.

This multi-method, cross-cultural analysis administered two surveys conducted simultaneously in Qatar and the UAE in the Middle East; and Illinois and Louisiana in the United States. The surveys were supplemented with a content analysis. The study showed that the U.S. presidential elections stirred anticipation in both Americans and Middle Easterners and determined whether the salience of issues was the controlling factor among both groups.

## International Chapters

Chapters outside of the United States can be found in



**Mexico**  
**Italy**  
**Switzerland**  
**Ukraine**  
**Bulgaria**



Below is a sample Chapter Report from Bulgaria

**Epsilon Alpha, American University of Bulgaria**

**Dr. Pavlina Pavlova, Chapter Coordinator**

Thirty-eight AUBG students became official members of Phi Beta Delta, an honor society for scholarly achievement in international education. The eighth induction ceremony was hosted on Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2008 by Pavlina Pavlova, coordinator and adviser of the AUBG chapter of Phi Beta Delta.

"This is the first year that we have so many new members," Pavlova said. AUBG has been a member of the society since 2000. Among the nominated were students who have studied abroad, participated in activities on campus promoting diversity, or presented papers at international conferences. Faculty and staff who have worked on similar projects were also among the newly selected members. "As you enter Phi Beta Delta, we hope that you will continue working towards its ideals and towards your participation in international education," Pavlova said.

"Phi Beta Delta will give us the opportunity to share our international experience both among us and among the AUBG community, for the benefit of all," senior Mariya Kaneva, one of the new members, said. Kaneva spent the spring semester of her sophomore year on an Erasmus Exchange in Salzburg, Austria, and participated in an international debate tournament in Ljubljana, Slovenia, last fall.

After the new members of the society received their member cards, certificates, and medallions, they were encouraged to share their international experience with each other. "Last semester I got the chance to go to Brussels, which was a wonderful experience and I thank AUBG for making this happen," senior Alexandra Tsankova said. The Epsilon Alpha chapter has been active in developing and promoting social, educational, and cultural events, as these photos show.




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*A Phi Beta  
Delta chapter  
on your  
campus,  
tangibly  
demonstrates  
the  
institution's  
commitment  
to and support  
of international  
education*



## *Phi Beta Delta Brings Diverse People Together*

### 2007 Chapter of the Year Florida International University



(From Left) Kathy-Ann Lewis (member), Ange Fievre (Vice President), Dr. Gene Rosenberg (member) Dr. Ana Sippin (Director, International Office), Kantesh Balani (President), Ted Randall (Chapter Advisor), Rajesh Ahuja (member), Srinivasa R. Bakshi (Secretary)

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*Members of Phi Beta Delta include: domestic and international faculty, visiting scholars, staff and graduate and undergraduate students.*

### Who are the Members?

#### A Sample of the 150 Designated Chapters

- ◆ Michigan State University
- ◆ Syracuse University
- ◆ Northern Illinois University
- ◆ Lehigh University
- ◆ George Mason University
- ◆ University of Houston
- ◆ University of Louisiana at Lafayette
- ◆ Langston University
- ◆ Ramapo College of New Jersey
- ◆ University of North Carolina—Charlotte
- ◆ California State University—Northridge
- ◆ Texas A&M University
- ◆ St. Mary's University, San Antonio
- ◆ Florida International University
- ◆ City University of Bellevue Washington
- ◆ American University of Bulgaria
- ◆ Petro Mohyla Mykolayiv State University, Ukraine
- ◆ Universidad de las Americas - Puebla, Mexico
- ◆ CETYS Universidad - Mexicali, Mexico
- ◆ University of Nebraska—Lincoln
- ◆ SUNY—Cortland
- ◆ Arcadia University
- ◆ Roger Williams University

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All of the chapters can be found at the Phi Beta Delta website at:

<http://www.phibetadelta.org/chapters.htm.page>

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## What Does Phi Beta Delta Mean for Your Campus?



THE UNIVERSITY of  
NEW ORLEANS

*The University of New Orleans Phi Beta Delta Honor Society - Beta Lambda Chapter*

### Report from the University of New Orleans

*Below is a letter sent to Senior Vice President, Anita Gaines from Dinah Payne, JD, Professor of Management and Engineering Management, University of New Orleans. The letter outlines UNO's recovery from Hurricane Katrina.*

We are pleased to report that the **Beta Lambda** chapter is doing very well here at the University of New Orleans!! The time since Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans and shut the City down has been fraught with many challenges, some very difficult and some really exciting. Our chapter decided to be proactive with some of the more exciting challenges the City and the University faced in recovery and rebuilding .

*Friday,  
September 16,  
2005.*

*Headline:*

*"There is no way to imagine America without New Orleans."*

*New Orleans  
Times-Picayune*

In pursuit of this resolve, we inducted a number of new members in the Fall, 2006 semester. We bestowed an Honorary Membership on H.E. Mahamoud Adam Bechir, Ambassador of Chad to the United States, The induction ceremony was one of the culminating events of the International Education Week. The Ambassador also attended "Celebrating Africa," a program sponsored by the African Student Association.

Additionally, this **spring, 2007**, in ongoing efforts to strengthen our goals of internationalizing our campus, a number of our members have been involved in the University Strategic Planning Proc-

ess. Our Chancellor, Timothy P. Ryan, has put a high priority on internationalization and designated a special committee to deal with those particular issues. Once the University Strategic Plan, with its internationalization component, is put into place, it is anticipated that our international initiatives will be more broadly recognized, and garner more support among all constituents in the University community.

At our first Spring meeting Chancellor Ryan spoke to the membership of our Zeta Iota chapter. His vision and goals include: empowering the members of the chapter by soliciting their input, increasing our international student enrollment beyond previous goals, a pledge for increased support of exchange opportunities for both students and faculty/staff, and the initiation of a fund-raising campaign to generate funds for an International Studies Center and Building. This is a wonderful start!

*Continued on page 7*



Phi Beta Delta Induction Recipients at the University of New Orleans, Fall 2006

## How can you establish a Phi Beta Delta Chapter?

*A Phi Beta Delta chapter on your campus offers opportunities to identify, involve, and recognize faculty and staff for their global and internationalization efforts.*

### WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED?

In the preceding pages we have made a case for establishing a chapter of Phi Beta Delta on your campus.

From our point of view Phi Beta Delta provides significant collaboration in establishing or maintaining internationalism on your campus. In addition, it is unique in bringing together faculty, staff, and students for a common purpose.

- (1) A chapter would espouse goals consistent with your efforts.
- (2) A chapter, where needed, can link faculty, staff, and students in a variety of academic and educational efforts.

(3) A chapter provides recognition of individuals having high academic excellence, significant international experience, and significant contributions to international education.

(4) A chapter can support other efforts that encourage internationalism, multiculturalism, and diversity.

(5) A chapter is linked to national and international efforts to recognize faculty, staff, and students.

(6) A chapter is extremely rewarding for both domestic and international students.

(7) A chapter helps identify high achiev-

ers who can support the international cause.

### WHAT ARE YOUR NEXT STEPS?

- (1) Investigate the Phi Beta Delta website.
- (2) Find key information on the web links below on page 7.
- (3) Talk with a colleague in your Region who has a chapter.
- (4) Talk with the Phi Beta Delta Regional Vice President, see page 7.
- (5) Review the five steps below toward organizing a chapter.

## How to Organize a Chapter in 5 Steps

1. Informal promotion of the idea among faculty, staff, and students.
2. Gather a small organizing committee
3. Petition for Chapter status
4. Identify candidates for induction
5. Hold founding meeting and Induction





Dr. Yvonne Captain has served as Executive Director of Phi Beta Delta since 2004. Previous to this role she served as president in 1996. Since 2004 she has been executive director. Dr. Captain teaches at George Washington University and her focus is on Latin American Film and International Affairs, specifically West Africa as well as Global South relations between Africa and Latin America. She has published and lectured widely on Latin America and is preparing a manuscript on the recent African Diaspora in Europe.



From the 2006 Induction at the University of New Orleans

## Professor Knutson, from page 2

published about interpersonal communication, had a wealth of knowledge to share with the departing students.

"I wanted to impress strongly upon them the most important Thai value, social harmony," says Knutson. "Thais live in a collective, high-context culture and have a genuine desire to relate properly to the person with whom they are communicating. Thai communicators take every measure possible not to cause discomfort or inconvenience to the people with

whom they interact." Knutson, who recently made his 34th trip to Thailand, knows what an incredible opportunity awaits the students chosen to make the trip. "Thailand is a remarkable place called the Land of Smile. Most people who have visited Thailand find that the experience changes their lives for good, forever," he says. The Sacramento State students working as English assistants at the Chitralada Royal Palace School receive a monthly stipend, accommoda-

tions, round-trip airfare, and college credits. "Most of all, they receive a life-changing experience," Knutson says.

*Article adapted from the Sacramento State University Bulletin: Newsletter for Faculty and Staff, April 9, 2007*



Professor Knutson and Phi Beta Delta Executive Director, Dr. Yvonne Captain

## New Orleans, from page 4

In addition, we will confer Honorary Membership on several visitors to UNO. These include the Director and Deputy Director of DAAD of Germany, and we will conclude an exchange agreement between the Hessen Germany System of Higher Education and the Louisiana State University System (which In-

cludes the University of New Orleans). All of these efforts will aid the strengthening of the internationalization efforts we seek.

**Note:** For seven students at the University of New Orleans, Phi Beta Delta replaced their certificates and medallions that were

lost during Hurricane Katrina.



From International Night at the University of New Orleans





*Phi Beta Delta,  
Honor Society for  
International  
Scholars*

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