STATE OF THE ALPHA THETA CHAPTER
OF PI SIGMA ALPHA

2017-2018

Washington State University
School of Politics, Philosophy and Public Affairs
Pullman, Washington
June 30th, 2018
By Amy G. Mazur, Alpha Theta Chapter Advisor
C.O. Johnson Distinguished Professor of Political Science
Director of Undergraduate Studies and Assessment Coordinator, School of PPPA

https://pppa.wsu.edu/political-science-honors-society-club/
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OVERVIEW

General Statement
Building from the success of our chapter’s re-launch year in 2017-2018, the full support of the School of PPPA Director, Steven Stehr and its faculty, a Chapter Grant from the National PSA and a close collaborative relationship with PPPAs Political Science Club, the Alpha Theta Chapter had an extremely successful and highly active year that will move our Chapter into a stage of unprecedented institutionalization and program delivery. Here, an overview is provided of each area of development and activity. In the rest of the report, details are provided for each area. Key materials referred to in the body of report are included in the appendix section. Separate document in the appendices are available on request.

Membership Update
- Total Members to date: 962
- E-mail invites sent to eligible Political Science Majors: 167
- New Members in 2018: 43
- New Members since Fall 2016: 69

Collaboration with PPPA and the Political Science Club
PPPA Director Steven Stehr has been highly supportive of the Chapter providing $2000 in funding for travel for Chapter members to the February IPD Conference in Vancouver. It was decided with the officers of the Political Science Club, who were also Alpha Theta members that the chapter would work with club on its Political Deliberation mission to combine budgets and student power.

Finances
- Budget = $5000 -- $2000 PPPA + $1500 PSA Chapter Activity Grant + $500 Individual Contribution + $500 CO Johnson Professorship
- Expenditures = $3750 Travel to IPD conference and Photos at the Annual Honor’s Convocation.

Annual Newsletter and Social Networking
- First issue of the Annual Newsletter Fall 2017 (See Appendix)
- New Chapter Website Established https://pppa.wsu.edu/political-science-honors-society-club/
- Facebook Posts on the PPPA FB Page

IPD Project
- Sent 9 Chapter Members to IPD Conference at WSU Vancouver 2/6-2/27
- Secured additional funds through ASWSU for Fall IPD forum at WSU- Pullman

Collaboration with the National Pi Sigma Honor Society
- Test case for new online membership system
- Membership Project and Archiving Letters

Plans for 2018-2019
- Convocation Reception
- IPD Forum on WSU- Pullman
- Alpha Theta Pin Project
- Membership Recruitment
MEMBERSHIP UPDATE AND NEWS

Following a successful year of recruitment in 2016-17 when we revitalized the chapter – it had not been active since 2010 when we had 23 numbers, this academic year we sent out invitations to 167 eligible political science members. This year we had a total of 43 new members with one faculty member and 6 graduate students. The class of 2018 went through a convocation ceremony at our Schools Awards Ceremony on April 24th (photo). To date, since Fall 2016 we have 69 new members and since our chapter was created in 1949, we have 962 members.

Scholarships and Awards

PPPA UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

**Sumption**
- Rita Birch

**William F. and Martha A. Mullen Endowment Scholarship**
- Nabil Saad Ali
- Riley Dougherty

**Morris Reed Scholarship**
- Erika Ibarra Perez
- Amaia Nichols
- Gavin Pielow
- Jared Mac
- Lily O’Doherty

**Claudius O. Johnson Memorial Scholarship**
- Bailey Fillinger

PPPA GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

**Paul I. Beckett Fellowship**
- Samuel Rhodes

**H. Paul Castleberry Fellowship**
- Jeffrey David

WSU –WIDE AWARDS

**Hannah Oliason**
- President’s Leadership Award
- PPPA Outstanding Senior for the College of Arts and Sciences

Post Graduate Plans

- **Hannah Oliason** – Staff Assistant for Senator Maria Cantwell
- **Stella Kim** -- Broadcast Journalist for TV Station in Missoula Montana
- **Heidi Stallman** -- Political Science Ph.D Program at Syracuse University
COLLABORATION WITH PPPA AND THE POLITICAL SCIENCE CLUB

School of Politics, Philosophy and Public Affairs

The support of our School Director, Steven Stehr, has been a key ingredient to the success of our Chapter. He agreed that a part of the Director of Undergraduate Studies job obligations in the School was to be faculty advisor to the Chapter and the Political Science Club. This will allow the Chapter to have institutional leadership over the long-haul in the school and allows the Chapter to be closely aligned with School and Political Science Club goals and activities. In addition, responding to a formal proposal coming from the Political Science Club and to match the funds provided by the Chapter Grant from Pi Sigma Alpha, Steven approved a budget allocation of $2000. Finally, he has given a high level of moral support and has helped to publicize the activities of the chapter within the School and on Campus.

Political Science Club

Under the leadership of President, Hannah Oliason, also a member of the Alpha Theta Chapter, the Political Science Club was revitalized with the mission of promoting more civil political discourse on the WSU campus. https://pppa.wsu.edu/political-science-club/. This goal dovetailed with work of the Institute of Public Deliberation, founded by Professor Carolyn Long on our WSU Vancouver campus, which has been administering public deliberation training programs since 2016. Early on, Hannah and the other officers of the club agreed that they would like to have a more general and accessible Political Science Club that would not limit membership to Alpha Theta membership, but that a tight collaboration would be a good way to proceed. Since the faculty advisor of the Political Science Club and the Alpha Theta Chapter are one in the same through the Director of Undergraduate Studies position, this collaboration was able to move forward, particularly on the Initiative on Public Deliberation Project – for more on this project – see below.

The Political Science Club has also sought to work with the Philosophy Club which is also very active and housed in our School. Thus, the Alpha Theta Chapter works with the Philosophy Club as well – https://pppa.wsu.edu/philosophy-club/. Hannah has also made an effort to make sure the Club’s officers have been selected for next year, thus assuring a smooth transition to the next leadership team of the Club and assuring that the work of this year’s Chapter- Club collaborations will be sustained into the next academic year.
FINANCES

This year we were very active on securing money for the Chapter activities thanks to the leadership of the Director of PPPA and of the President of the Political Science Club. Hannah worked with the Faculty Advisor of the Chapter to produce a proposal for funding travel to the IPD conference in Vancouver Washington for chapter members. The chapter was awarded a $1500 grant. She also secured $2000 in matching funds from PPPA. A total of 18 students were funded to attend the two day IPD training conference, including 9 chapter members. This funding included transportation, registration, food and lodging, for a total of nearly $3500. The CO Johnson Professorship in Political Science contributed an additional $500 to fund the visit of Professor Carolyn Long, the founder of the IPD, to come to the WSU- Pullman campus to discuss IPD and to plan future activities on IPD with the Chapter and Political Science Club. Professor Emeritus and recent Alpha Theta Chapter member also made an individual contribution to the Chapter of $500. We used a portion of those funds to cover a professional photographer for the honor’s convocation. We still have $300 remaining in the Chapter Accounts for next year’s activities.

Thus in all the Chapter received $5000 in funding in 2017-2018.

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER AND SOCIAL NETWORKING

The Chapter Advisor also initiated the first chapter newsletter ever delivered by the chapter in its 66 year history. It is an e-newsletter and is distributed to all chapter members each December. We also have a webpage for the chapter on the PPPA website which is updated regularly and where the newsletter is housed as well. Regular posts about chapter activities are made by the Chapter Advisor.

The Executive Director of Pi Sigma Alpha recently shared an excel version of the all Chapter members since its creation. Don Shearer in WSU’s development office is working on tracking down the locations and email addresses of all of these members and we will create an interactive web based map of all of our members, where users can click on their locations and see their names throughout the country and the world if applicable. We will also use the email database as a means of reaching out to members who have graduates, with an eye towards fund raising for the chapter.
IPD PROJECT

Since Fall 2016, the chapter has been focused on the promotion of more civil dialogue on campus. Hanna Oliason, President of the Political Science Club, first came to Amy Mazur in asking about the possibility of a course that would teach students to discuss politics in a more constructive manner. Mazur and Oliason agreed that this would be an excellent mission for the newly revitalized Alpha Theta Chapter and Political Science Club, particularly given that the Initiative for Public Deliberation had already been operating since 2014 at WSU on its Vancouver campus through the Foley Institute (https://foley.wsu.edu). IPD was first led by Dr. Carolyn Long Sam Reed Distinguished Professor in Civic Education and Public Civility and now directed by Ellen Rogers (WSU-V). https://admin.vancouver.wsu.edu/ipd. (For more on IPD see its flyer in the appendix).

Given the common goals of the IPD and the Political Science Club/Chapter, the club and the Chapter hosted Professor Carolyn Long in October with co sponsorship from the Foley Institute and the Co Johnson Distinguished Professorship to come to the campus (Photo). She gave a public lecture on IPD and met with Club members to plan the upcoming Conference on IPD in Vancouver and to give the students advice about what the Club could do to promote more civil political discussion on campus.

Following this successful campus visit, the chapter and club began to recruit and plan for attending the two-day Civil Discourse Training Conference in February, 2018. In these polarized times, schools and universities have the opportunity to become centers of healthy deliberation, where divisive issues are discussed and common ground is identified. The conference equipped student with the skills and knowledge to become a champion of civility.

Martín Carcasson, founder and director of the Center for Public Deliberation at Colorado State University, gave plenary remarks (Photo).

At the end of the conference, Alpha Theta members received a certificate in IPD that provided them with valuable techniques in facilitating civil discourse and reducing hostile rhetoric that they were able to bring back to share with other student groups and leaders across the Pullman campus. The Chapter Advisor also received a certificate at the conference. The Chapter and Political Science Club have already secured partial funding for and started to plan an IPD forum to be held on the WSU-Pullman campus this Fall (see plans for 2018-19 below)
COLLABORATION WITH THE NATIONAL PI SIGMA HONOR SOCIETY

A part of our Chapter’s success has been the support of Sean Twombly, Executive Director of Pi Sigma Alpha and the National Office more generally speaking. We were fortunate enough to be included in the pilot of the on-line membership process administered by the National Office. This was instrumental in the increase in our numbers in two years - 69 – and has facilitated the membership process of the Faculty advisor allowing her more time to pursue program development. This has made the process of students signing up and paying for members and the distribution of member regalia and organizing our annual convocation seamless for all involved.

It was also extremely helpful to receive an excel membership list of all of 960 of our members. We are now pursuing the Alpha Theta Pin Project where we will obtain all contact information of all members through WSU’s development office, share this information with the National Office and create an interactive online map of the USA/ World to locate all of our members.

Similarly, the chapter grant we were given for the IPD conference allowed us to cover student expenses to attend a valuable conference as well as to leverage matching funds for this activity from other units on campus. Our success even attracted an individual contribution from one of our Emeritus Professors, Nicholas Lovrich, pictured here.

We have also shared with the National Office early correspondence between our Chapter founders in the late 1940s and the Executive Director of the PSA. This correspondence had actually been sent to our chapter several years ago and lost from the archives of the National Office, so we were able to help the National Office update their archives (see attached letter from CO Johnson in the appendix section).

This material and financial support from the National Office has been a fundamental foundation for the growth and institutionalization of our Chapter over the past two years.

*****MANY THANKS TO SEAN TWOMBLY AND THE NATIONAL OFFICE*****
PLANS FOR 2018-2019

IPD Project

The Political Science Club secured $3000 grant from the Association of WSU Students to plan and host an IPD forum on the WSU –Pullman Campus. The Chapter will also be a co sponsor. The new officers of the Club will work with the Chapter and the Director of the Forum to hold a public forum on Mental Health Issues in the Fall. Efforts will be made to hold an IPD training session on the Pullman campus as well.

Member Recruitment

Future chapter members will be recruited from the new class of eligible Political Science majors. As always, we will email all majors with a 3.0 GPA or higher in the Fall and in the Spring, with an eye of getting a larger share of our majors to join Pi Sigma Alpha. Our target number for this year is 75. We have on average 400 majors each year of which about a half are eligible to be Pi Sigma Alpha members.

Workshop on Post Graduate Possibilities

The chapter will host a luncheon workshop series for members on jobs, graduate school and government service throughout the year.

Convocation Ceremony and Reception

With the seed money already in our accounts from Professor Lovrich we would like to make our convocation ceremony a stand alone event for new and current members, with a reception.

Sending Students to National PSA Conference

The Chapter and PPPA faculty will work with the Political Science Club to recruit students to attend the National PSA conference from the beginning of the Fall semester.

Nominate Students for National PSA Awards

Also beginning in Fall 2018, the Chapter Advisor will work closely with students and faculty to identify a nominee for all of the various PSA awards for 2018-2019.

Submit Chapter Activity Grant Proposal

The Chapter Advisor will work with the Political Science Club to submit a chapter activity grant for supplemental funds for IPD events and/ or a convocation reception.

Alpha Theta Pin Project

The Chapter Advisor will continue to work on obtaining all information on Alpha Theta members to send on to the National Office and to use in the creation of an interactive map for the Chapter website.
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WSU Alpha Theta Chapter Members, 2017-2018
Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor’s Society

Cawley Pip Marie          Fox Danielle
David Jeffrey D.          Good Dylan
Do Jessica                Hendrickson Grace
Lovrich Nicholas P.       Johnson Mitchell
Miner Nicholas            Kennedy Mia
Pitts Emma                Lamkin Payton
Preuninger Joel           Lindstrom Brittney
Rhodes Samuel             Maley Mckayla
Smotherman Tyler          McAlinden Orla
Ali Saad Nabil            Mekuria Taliah
Antoine-Dillon Cameron    Nichols Amaia
Baker Kaiser              Quinn Candace
Birch Rita Lynn           Rabourn Kira
Boardman Kaitlynn         Robinson Patrick
Carney Cade               Rodriguez Jordan
Cohen Claire              Simmons Connor
Cooley Madison            Sphar Boaz
Dalton James Kyle         Tohu Kristel
Diehl Courtney            Vance Ryan
Dougherty Riley           Wehinger Alexandra
Focht Payton              Whitted Jadon
                        Zou Andrew
Note from the Faculty Advisor

Welcome to all 35 of our new members of the Alpha Theta WSU-Pullman Chapter!! Founded, in 1939 by Charles O. Johnson our chapter has a total of 921 members – membership is for life. In Fall 2017, as the Director of Undergraduate Studies of the School of Politics, Philosophy and Public Affairs (PPPA), I re-launched our chapter.

Our first class was comprised of 23 majors who received their honor’s certificates and regalia at PPPA’s awards ceremony last April. We will be having a second convocation ceremony this April for our next class of society members at the School’s Awards event this April. We will be contacting all Political Science majors with a 3.0 GPA or higher this month to invite them to become members. Membership is $35 with the possibility of purchasing an honor chord and pin for a minimal additional amount.

Membership allows you to take advantage of Chapter and National level funding, services and activities – see below – and it looks great on your résumé. This year we received a Chapter Activity Grant from the National Honor Society ($1500) to fund the attendance of chapter members to the Conference on Initiative on Public Deliberation in late February at WSU-Vancouver (see below). Many thanks to Nicholas Lovrich (Political Science Emeritus) for his generous contribution to this effort ($500).

Read on for more information about the activities, services and funding from both our chapter and the national level honor’s society, including new members in 2017 and CO Johnson’s correspondence with the national honor’s office, called a fraternity!, in 1951. I urge you to consider submitting your research to the Pi Sigma Journal, participating in the annual national meeting or applying for the Pi Sigma scholarships. We will be nominating one best senior paper by Alpha Theta Members for the National Award for best class paper this semester. Please do not hesitate to contact me or, better yet, come by my office in Johnson Tower (822) to say hi and update me on your political science related activities.

Have a great year !!!!

Amy G. Mazur, CO Johnson Distinguished Professor of Political Science (mazur@wsu.edu)
New Alpha Theta Members in 2017 (35)

UNDERGRADUATES (26)
Cole Bonvallet
Bailey Bressler
Kalina Cook
Daniel DiLeonardo
Jessica Do
Brandon Dudley
Catherine Dunn
Ruth-Fiam Nord
Nicholas Gagner
Bailey Fillinger
Erika Ibarra Perez
Stella Kim
Makennah Little
Jarred Mac
Jesse Martorano
Nicholas Milner
Matthew Morrow
Milissa Munoz
Sana Nawid
Olivia Parish
Gavin Pielow
Emma Pitts
Micah Ramos
Reed Simock
Heidi Stallman
Adam Tradii

GRADUATES (6)
Pip Cawley
Timothy Chatburn
Jeffrey David
Sam Rhodes
Joel Preuninger
Tyler Smotherman

FACULTY (3)
Amy Mazur
Nicholas Lovrich
Ashley Townsend

Public Deliberation Training Conference at WSU- Vancouver.
February 26th and 27th (An initiative of the WSU - Vancouver and the Foley Institute led by Dr. Carolyn Long Sam Reed Distinguished Professor in Civic Education and Public Civility).

Join the Initiative for Public Deliberation for a conference on civil dialogue. In these polarized times, schools and universities have the opportunity to become centers of healthy deliberation, where divisive issues are discussed and common ground is identified. This conference will equip you with the skills and knowledge to become a champion of civility.

Martín Carcasson, founder and director of the Center for Public Deliberation at Colorado State University, will give plenary remarks. Learn and practice the skills necessary to become an IPD Civility Fellow.
Topics include:

- Deliberative Democracy
- Cultural Competency
- Facilitation Skills
- How to Guide Conversations
- Ways to Foster Understanding
You will have the opportunity to practice your new skills during a public forum on the opioid crisis. Registration is $25 and includes breakfast, two lunches, evening reception, parking and conference materials. Registration is available online through Feb. 9. Space is limited! For more registration and additional information to bit.ly/ipdconference. Contact Dr. Mazur, if you are interested in receiving funding to attend the conference.

**Highlights of National Honor’s Society Services Available to All Chapter Members** (http://office2248.wixsite.com/pi-sigma-alpha)

**Pi Sigma Alpha Undergraduate Journal of Politics** -- The *Journal* welcomes submissions from undergraduates of any class or major; submissions from Pi Sigma Alpha members are especially encouraged. It strives to publish manuscripts of the highest quality in all areas of political science. In general, papers selected for publication have been well-written with a well-developed thesis, compelling argument, and original analysis. Authors may be asked to revise their manuscripts before they are accepted for publication. Submissions deadlines are **October 1, 2017**, for the Fall issue and **February 1, 2018**, for the Spring issue. Manuscripts are accepted on a rolling basis, so earlier submissions are encouraged. To submit your work, please email your manuscript (as a Word document) to psajournalou@gmail.com. Please include your name, university affiliation, and contact information. If possible, please also include a short comment about how you heard about the *Journal*.

**National Honor’s Conference** - Established in 2014, this event is designed to provide Pi Sigma Alpha members the opportunity to present original research in a professional conference setting. The event takes place over President's Day Weekend in February in Washington D.C. Proposal deadlines are the December 1st prior.

**Best Class Paper Award**-- Each chapter advisor may nominate one per year in each category. Only Pi Sigma Alpha members are eligible to participate. Nominations are due on June 1; winners are announced by August 15. The cash awards are $250 for each first-place winner and $100 each for runners-up.

**Best Thesis Award**-- Each chapter advisor may nominate one per year in each category. Only Pi Sigma Alpha members are eligible to participate. Nominations are due on June 1; winners are announced by August 15. The cash awards are $250 for each first-place winner and $100 each for runners-up. Each chapter advisor may nominate one per year in each category. Only Pi Sigma Alpha members are eligible to participate. Nominations are due on June 1; winners are announced by August 15. The cash awards are $250 for each first-place winner and $100 each for runners-up.

Pi Sigma Alpha awards four **McManus Washington Internship Scholarships** annually to members participating in political science internship programs in Washington, DC, for either the summer term or fall semester. Each scholarship is $2,000. Applications are due May 1.

**Howard Penniman Scholarships for Graduate Study** are awarded annually to up to 5 members entering graduate school in political science. Nominations must come from the chapter advisors, accompanied by an official application. Nominations are due by May 1, and the winners are announced by June 15. Each scholarship is $2,000.
Correspondence between Chapter Founder C.O Johnson and the National Honors Fraternity (!) from 1951
What is the Initiative for Public Deliberation?

The Washington State University Vancouver -- Foley Institute for Public Policy and Public Service’s Initiative for Public Deliberation (IPD) was established in Spring, 2015. Its goal is “to strengthen democratic government by replacing rigid partisanship with listening and conversation.” It serves as an impartial resource for Washingtonians to assist in community problem-solving. We analyze issues, design public participation events, host forums that students facilitate, and write reports on key issues while working with a wide variety of local institutions, including local and state government, school districts, and community organizations. Deliberation requires safe places for citizens to come together, good and fair information to help structure the conversation, and skilled facilitators to guide the process, and IPD is dedicated to providing these three key ingredients to Washington.

Students are at the center of the Initiative’s work. They acquire a wide range of critical 21st century skills and experiences that are applicable to many contexts, including facilitating collaborative problem-solving, issue analysis, convening, community organizing, meeting design, and reporting. Student associates are treated as colleagues and collaborators. Students are involved in all aspects of IPD, and have ample opportunities to take on significant responsibilities.

Currently consists of a network of 20-30 trained associates. Each spring, 15 students are brought into the program. These students are introduced to the underlying democratic theories and participation processes that serve as a foundation for IPD’s work. They are trained in facilitation techniques and they practice all of the different aspects of the deliberative process. Program alumni are asked to return as “Senior Research Associates” who participate in training, research, and hosting public events, and who serve as mentors to incoming facilitators. IPD has partnered with a variety of community organizations in Washington. We work directly with the Fort Vancouver Regional Library to produce the Forum at the Library, a quarterly speaker and deliberative program that engages the community. IPD has also worked with the Community Foundation, Identity Clark County (ICC), and the Columbia River Economic Development Council (CREDC) to foster community dialogue on a variety of issues, including affordable housing and economic development. This past year IPD worked with the YMCA to host a conference for high school student leaders to introduce them to our work and train them in facilitation techniques so they can use these skills to achieve democratic ideals. IPD also held training sessions at the Restoring Civility to Civic Dialogue conference at the University of San Diego and the Summer Institute for the Washington Campus Compact. [https://foley.wsu.edu/research/ipd/]