



**Alpha Theta Chapter of the Pi Sigma Alpha National
Political Science Honor's Society**

NEWS

No. 2, February 2019

**School of Politics, Philosophy and Public Affairs
Washington State University**

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

Note from the Faculty Advisor

Welcome to the new members of the Alpha Theta WSU-Pullman Chapter!! This is our second annual newsletter. Founded, in 1939 by Charles O. Johnson our chapter has a total of 926 life-time members. This past year, we were ranked in the top 20 Chapters out of 800 nationwide and we sent 6 members to a two-day training conference on our Vancouver campus through the Initiative for Public Deliberation. Since 2017, we have had 74 new members, including faculty and graduate and undergraduate students. And here is a picture of the class of 2018 from last year's convocation ceremony in April.



This year we will be celebrating our chapter's 80th anniversary at a special reception on April 17th, 4:00 - 6:00 (CUE 518), in conjunction with the convocation of new members and the PPPA Awards ceremony. Honor's Alum Dr. Nicholas Lovrich (Emeritus) will be delivering a keynote on his first-hand experiences in problem-driven research. So mark your calendars for this important event.

Additional anniversary plans include, the launch of an essay contest, an

an alumni network, an interactive online map of our alums and a fund-raising drive to finance the essay contest and a scholarship for graduate school. This year we are inviting Philosophy as well as Political Science majors with a 3.0 GPA or higher to become members. Many thanks to Sean Twombly and his team at the PSA national office in D.C. for all of the support, including a database of our alums and a second chapter activity grant!! For more on PSA go to <https://www.pisigmaalpha.org/>. Steven Stehr, Director of PPPA, also continues to provide crucial support. I invite you to read on about all of the details of these exciting activities and opportunities as well as more and hope to see you at our 80th anniversary celebration in April. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments.

Have a great year and GO COUGS!!!



Amy G. Mazur, CO Johnson Distinguished Professor of Political Science (mazur@wsu.edu)

New Alpha Theta Members in 2018 (32)

Saad Ali
Kasier Baker
Kaitlynn Bordman
Caitlin Bhoss
Rebecca Chisum
Claire Cohen
Madison Cooley
Courtney Diehl
Riley Dougherty
Payton Focht
Grace Hendrickson

Mitchell Johnson
Mia Kennedy
Payton Lamkin
Brittney Lindstrom
Mckayla Maley
Orla McAlinden
Taliah Mekuria
Amaia Nichols
Candace Quinn
Kira Rabourn
Patrick Robinson

Amanda Scanlon
Connor Simmons
Peter North
Alyssa Rone
Kristel Tohu
Ryan Vance
Alexandra Wehinger
Andrew Zhou
Mandy Bumpus

Philosophy Majors Invited to Join

Given that our Philosophy major is housed in the same School with political science, that majors in philosophy have the opportunity to take political science courses, that several political science courses are cross-listed with philosophy and that the orientation of philosophy faculty research often overlaps with public law and policy, we have decided to open-up the Alpha Theta membership to philosophy majors.

Initiative for Public Deliberation Project

Since Fall 2016, the chapter has been focused on the promotion of more civil dialogue on campus. Hanna Oliason, then President of the Political Science Club, first came to Amy



Mazur to ask 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.

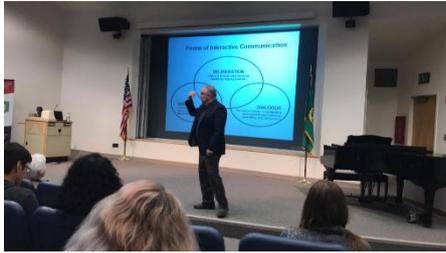
Carolyn Long Sam Reed Distinguished Professor in Civic Education and Public Civility and now directed by Ellen Rogers (WSU-V). <https://admin.vancouver.wsu.edu/ipd>.



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 secured partial funding for and started to plan an IPD forum to be held on the WSU-Pullman campus.

80th Anniversary of Alpha Theta Chapter

In honor of the 80th year of our chapter, we have planned a series of events and new activities, made possible in part by a second chapter activity grant from Pi Sigma Alpha and the support of PPPA.

Alpha Theta Honor's Convocation and Reception – We will be hosting a reception on



April 17th from 4:00-6:00 in CUE 518 in conjunction with the PPPA Awards Ceremony. We will have appetizers and drinks (non-alcoholic) and so will have chance to mingle, meet and catch-up with faculty, students and honor society alums. Professor Nicholas Lovrich, a faculty member for over 40 years at WSU, world renowned political scientist, Regents Professor and Director of Government Studies and Services, will be giving a key note presentation on his experiences with problem driven research. This will be a unique opportunity for alums and current honor society members to network and get to know each other as well.

Launch of Alpha Theta Essay Contest The deadline is May 1st and winners will be announced June 15th. All current WSU undergraduates who are members of the honor society are invited to submit a significant class paper (minimum of 15 pages) on which they received at least an A-. Papers should be emailed to mazur@wsu.edu. The faculty members of the School's Undergraduate Studies Committee will judge the quality of the papers and will distribute three prizes: 1st place + \$200; 2nd place for \$100 and Third place for \$50. All three winners will be encouraged to submit their papers to the **Pi Sigma Alpha Undergraduate Journal of Politics** (October 1 deadline) and to the National Honor's Conference – deadline December 1st (For more information on the Journal and the Conference see below) The first place winner will also be nominated for the Pi Sigma Alpha -Best Class Paper Award at the national level for which winners are announced by August 15. The cash awards are \$250 for each first-place winner and \$100 each for runners-up.

Cougar Alumni Pin and Data Project In the context of organizing for the centennial of Pi Sigma Alpha in 2020, Sean Twombly, the Executive Director of Pi Sigma Alpha, sent us an excel data base of all of our alums since this chapter's founding with names, location and profession. With the help of the Don Shearer and his team at the WSU Foundation and research assistant Jordan Smith, the data was put into an interactive map form so that users could click on the locations of each alumni and see their profession. This map will be unveiled at our 80th anniversary celebration this Spring.

Networking with Alpha Theta Alums -- With this mine of information on all of our alums, we will start sending out our annual newsletter to them and also invite them to our 50th anniversary celebration. We will also create a data base of alums that are willing to service as contacts and even mentors for graduating honor's society members for post graduate studies and professional guidance and job placement.

Alpha Theta Fund-Raising Drive – We will also begin to raise money for two permanent financial sources for undergraduate members amongst our alums.

Alpha Theta Best Paper Prize - \$350 each year for the prize money.

Alpha Theta Post Graduate Scholarship - unds, to be determined pending donor contributions, given to the outstanding honor's student who will be attending graduate or law school, in any area. Potentially to be named after a single donor.

Additional Pi Sigma Alpha Awards

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.

To make our nominations, we will identify the Alpha Theta members who are presenting theses through the Honor's College at WSU and then select one student with the strongest thesis to be nominated.

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. Alpha Theta members attending political science graduate school will be identified in the Spring and then if there is more than one, the student with the most financial need will be nominated.

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. Any Alpha Theta student in a DC internship program is eligible to apply for these.

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 and Regional Honor's Undergraduate Conferences

We hope to send a contingent of Alpha Theta members to one or both of these conferences in 2020. Contact Amy Mazur, if you are interested. Deadlines are not until the end of Fall semester so you can start planning ahead.

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.

This year, the Southern regional Pi Sigma Student Conference was held in February at University of Texas Arlington.

And here are some student comments about the value of attending these conferences.

"By attending the Pi Sigma Alpha undergraduate conference, I had the opportunity to receive feedback on my presentation that was extremely helpful and valuable to me as I continue to conduct research. Perhaps the most valuable experience was listening and talking to other presenters. I can bring the information I learned at this conference back to my home university to help our students learn more about the field of political science as well as the importance of undergraduate research and scholarship."

- Greta Frost, Youngstown State University

"The Pi Sigma Alpha undergraduate conference is a great way to gain the experience you need by presenting your own research before you enter graduate school, and in the nations capital no less! Listening to other undergrads present their research was a very fulfilling, enlightening, and rewarding experience and no other undergraduate conference does it like Pi Sigma Alpha."

-Chelsea Manning, Oakland University

Workshop for Majors on Tips for Professional and Academic Success After Graduation, February 27th, 2019

Co Sponsored with PPPA and the Political Science Club, this year we had the following speakers share their insights with both Political Science and Philosophy Majors at the Foley Institute over pizza:

Hugh Harrison, Academic Success and Career Center
Kristy Denney, Pre Law Resource Center
Richard Elgar, Internship Coordinator, Foley
Martha Cottam, Director of Graduate Studies
Samantha Noll, Faculty, Philosophy
Diane Scott, Philosophy Advisor, PPPA
Teresa Woolverton, Political Science Advisor, PPPA