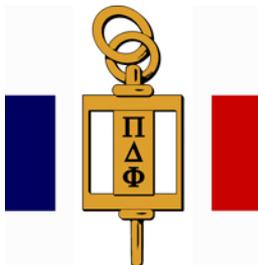


Pi Delta Phi

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NEWSLETTER



NATIONAL FRENCH HONOR SOCIETY

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The Association of College & University Honor Societies

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The Pi Delta Phi Newsletter is published twice a year to inform each chapter about the activities and events of the organization. It is hoped that this information will inspire members to improve their roles as promoters of the French language and francophone cultures.

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2010 Joseph Yedlicka Summer Scholarship Recipients

Dawn Bisson Avignon



Pi Delta Phi 2010 Summer Scholarship winner Ms. Dawn Bisson will study in Avignon.

Dawn Bisson, from Westover, Maryland, is one of the four winners of the 2009-10 Joseph Yedlicka competition, sponsored by Pi Delta Phi, the National French Honor Society. This summer Ms. Bisson will spend six weeks in Avignon, France, studying French language, literature, and civilization at the Institute for American Universities.

Ms. Bisson began studying French in the ninth grade, at Pocomoke High School, in Pocomoke City, Maryland. Her interest has continued, leading her to declare a college major in French, and she will graduate from Salisbury University, in Salisbury, Maryland, in May 2011. Biology and environmental studies fill out her academic program at Salisbury University, which has been very successful, as indicated by Dawn Bisson's impressive

GPA. She was welcomed into the honor's program at Salisbury, and has been on the Dean's List for five out of her seven college semesters. Living in Avignon will provide her an opportunity to study French language and literature in an unmatched context, a goal that would be difficult for her to reach without the scholarship; Dawn Bisson is one of America's many hardworking students obliged to meet their educational expenses on their own.

Dr. Claire Kew, Assistant Professor of French and Moderator of Iota Phi, Pi Delta Phi, nominated Dawn Bisson for the Yedlicka scholarship, with supporting letters from Dr. Arlene White, Associate Professor of French, and Dr. Corinne Pubill, Assistant Professor of Spanish and French, at Salisbury University.

Emily O'Brien Paris



Pi Delta Phi 2010 Summer Scholarship winner Ms. Emily O'Brien will study in Paris.

Emily E. O'Brien, daughter of William O'Brien and Elizabeth Carr, Silver Spring, Maryland, is one of the four winners of the 2009-10 Joseph Yedlicka competition, sponsored by Pi Delta Phi, the National French Honor Society. This summer Ms. O'Brien will spend seven weeks in Paris, studying French language, literature, and civilization at the American University in Paris.

Ms. O'Brien plans on receiving her BA in French and Art in December 2010, after finishing her undergraduate studies at the University of North Carolina at Asheville. Her exceptional academic performance in French has not only earned her a Pi Delta Phi Yedlicka scholarship, but also the Travis Bradley Award for excellence in French at UNC Asheville. She excels in art as well, an interest

that she pursues by participating in the student art group Art Front and interning with Arts for Life, which places her at the children's hospital at Mission Hospital in Asheville. She has also devoted considerable time to volunteering in projects to restore post-Katrina New Orleans.

The Yedlicka scholarship will enable Emily O'Brien to discover Paris, central to her interests in things French and art. She has never studied abroad, which will be an experience of which she appears primed to make the most. Teaching, or the creative life as an artist are the two paths she is considering taking after college; Paris will significantly contribute to her preparation for both endeavors. Dr. Catherine Pons, Associate Professor of French and Moderator of ETA PSI, Pi Delta Phi, nominated Emily E. O'Brien for the Yedlicka scholarship, with a supporting letter from Dr. Sandra Malicote, Professor of French, at UNC Asheville.

Rebecca Racine

Chicoutimi



Pi Delta Phi 2010 Summer Scholarship winner Ms. Rebecca Racine will study in Chicoutimi.

Rebecca Racine, daughter of Leo and Yvonne Racine, Holliston, Massachusetts, is one of the four recipients of 2009-10 Joseph Yedlicka scholarships, sponsored by Pi Delta Phi, the National French Honor Society. This summer Ms. Racine, will spend five weeks in Chicoutimi, Quebec, studying French language and francophone literature and civilization at the language school of the Université du Québec in Chicoutimi.

A senior at Providence College, in Providence, Rhode Island, Rebecca Racine is scheduled to graduate this May, with a BA in French and secondary education. She has an outstanding academic record, including admission to the liberal arts honors program at Providence College and figuring on the

Dean's List since fall 2006. Ms. Racine serves as an Admissions' Ambassador for the college and is active as a tutor of French at Providence. Studying in Chicoutimi will afford Rebecca Racine the enviable opportunity to become familiar with a world her French-Canadian ancestors knew a few generations before; she will be discovering family roots in Quebec. Rebecca Racine is currently interning as a student teacher in Warwick, RI, at Tal Gate high school. As Ms. Racine hopes to continue in this professional field, her immersion in French and francophone studies at the university this summer will improve her skills and expand her knowledge. The summer school in Chicoutimi is very proud of the enriching cultural environment it creates for summer students, and in addition it offers many possibilities to explore the natural surroundings

Dr. Patricia Lawlor, Professor of French and Moderator of the NUTAU chapter, at Providence College, nominated Rebecca Racine for the Pi Delta Phi award, with supporting letters from Dr. Simone Ferguson, Professor of French, and Dr. Nuria Alonso Garcia, Associate Professor of Spanish.

Gloria Amerson

Avignon

Gloria Amerson, daughter of Thomas and Barbara Amerson, from Ledyard, Connecticut, is one of the four winners of the 2009-10 Joseph Yedlicka competition, sponsored by Pi Delta Phi, the National French Honor Society. This summer Ms. Amerson will spend six weeks in Avignon, France studying French language, literature, and civilization at the Institute for American Universities.

In her junior year at the University of North Carolina Greensboro, Gloria is a French Education major, planning on receiving her BA in 2011. She credits a high-school teacher, Ms. Renee Sylvestre, for her interest in French and goal of teaching French; she hopes to work in the North Carolina secondary school system. Indeed next year, she will begin her teacher training, as a student teacher, in a high school in Guilford County. Her future plans include, as well, studying at the master's level for a degree in French literature. Summer study in Avignon will significantly contribute to achieving both objectives, as in Avignon, Ms. Amerson will be immersed in French culture and intensively studying literature and civilization at the Institute. Further, she anticipates attending the renowned theater festival held every summer in Avignon. A sterling academic record in her major and overall at UNC Greensboro promises that she will excel in her studies in France this summer.

Dr. Bertrand Landry, Visiting Assistant Professor of French and Moderator of Gamma Delta, Pi Delta Phi, nominated Gloria Amerson for the Yedlicka scholarship, with supporting letters from Dr. David Fein, Professor of French, and Dr. Cybelle McFadden, Assistant Professor of French, at UNC Greensboro.

Editor's Note: Humberto Salgado received a Yedlicka scholarship for summer 2009 to study at the American University in Paris. Though his fellow recipients' responses were published in the last edition of the Pi Delta Phi newsletter, Humberto has sent his in time for this semester's newsletter.



“C'est si bon”

I've spent a great portion of my life in between cultures. When I was younger my parents wanted me to have an understanding of my roots so they would send me to spend extended periods of time living in Colombia with my extended family. I was fascinated by the fact that I could be part of the North American and at the same time be part of Colombian culture because I'm bilingual. This fact made me very interested in learning other languages and it is what led me to continue my education in foreign languages. When I was granted the opportunity to study for a summer in France I was beyond ecstatic. Finally, I would be able to use the skills that I had been culturing for so long and see if my education and my effort had paid off.

After a very long, but extremely comfortable flight I finally arrived at Charles Gaule [sic]. Upon exiting the plane I could hear the announcements as they were read, first in French, then in English and then in a plethora of other languages. After getting in contact with Ms. Dedeyan, I began what would become the most exciting and confusing 3 hours of my life. Running like a chicken with its head cut off I went from one end of the airport to the other trying to find a way to get from the airport to centre-ville. First I tried the taxis but I could tell that despite my near native proficiency they knew I was a tourist and were going to try and get as much as they could out of me. Then I checked the buses, but those weren't leaving for a while and many of them were already full. Finally, I made the acquaintance of what would become my best friend for the next month and a half: the metro.

Once I figured out how to work it, I made my way into Paris. I could not take my eyes off the windows; observing everything as it flew by, even the banlieues held my attention captive. Much to my dismay however, I confused the stops and got off about 7 blocks away from AUP with my duffle bag and backpack in hand. Here I had my first and most memorable experience with the French. Upon asking for directions –like the tourist that I was--I was informed that Paris “... est une grande ville” and that I should invest in a map. While at first it seemed rude I later learned that this person was right.

Upon arriving at AUP I was blown away by the fact that everyone in the university spoke English. While there were francophones, they all wanted to speak English. At first I was disheartened by this fact but in the end it was this fact that made my trip so enjoyable. I realized that for the most part when people head off to another country while we want a cultural experience, we seek, in some sense,

a sort of safety bubble. I had spoken before to many of my friends who had done study abroad programs and they had told me that despite the fact that they were in another country it was extremely easy for them to find people who wanted to speak English and or who could only speak English. I learned that this was quite accurate and I even found that many times I yearned for someone whom I could speak to without having to think about saying something wrong.

My first two weeks were spent trying to find this safety bubble, but at the same time I wanted to see this beautiful city, I wanted to meet the people and see firsthand what I had thus far only read in books. Interestingly enough it was a book that inspired me to go forth and venture out on my own. I was reading *La Chute* by Albert Camus for my conversation course, and it was the protagonist's dilemma and ultimate realization that promoted me to take the reins of my adventure and make it what I wanted. So following the French gentlemen's and Clamence's advice, I bought a map and faced the world unfazed by the many obstacles that stood in my way. I made a plan then that every day after class I would pick a park or location on the map that I had purchased and I would walk there.

At first I was reticent about engaging with people, fearing that they would retort in the same brusque fashion as the first person I met, but I decided that it did not matter. What if it took me a couple minutes to find the right word, I knew it! So, slowly but surely, I began to take my first baby steps and much like a baby I stumbled, wobbled and, finally, I stood up and began to walk. What a feeling! Once I had become comfortable in my surroundings, I began to connect with my fellow students and branch out socially. Thanks to my little excursions, I became pretty good at navigating Paris, arguing with cabbies about the best route to take to a given location, and becoming quite useful to my fellow American students when it came time to go out and see the city. I quickly picked up the Parisian speak and soon made many friends within the city.

At first I was frustrated because I realized that even though I had a working knowledge of the language, slipping into the everyday still required a little more work. Pride, or a sense of entitlement, was the first obstacle. I understood that the ease with which I slipped in and out of my native cultures was due to the fact that both Spanish and English were already part of my everyday life and that if I wanted to slip into French culture, I had to make a conscious decision to try. I do not think I discovered something about myself like many people do on these trips, but rather forged a new part of the person that I am now. Clamence, and the French in general taught me to be active about my experience. If I wanted to speak better and see the city I had get out and just do it. I learned that while a comfort zone is necessary and it is instinctual to seek it, we must learn to adapt and create our own. We cannot simply latch onto other people's safety bubbles or expect someone to just guide us through our experiences. I had been handed an opportunity and I learned how to make it unforgettable.

XI XI, XI OMICRON, and XI PI Chapter Additions to Pi Delta Phi

On February 26, 2010, XI XI chapter was installed at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Pi Delta Phi Executive Director Dr. Pamela Park installed XI OMICRON chapter at Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon on February 19, 2010; the Chapter Moderator is Dr. Jeanne-Sarah de Larquier. Most recently, XI PI, was installed April 15 at Davidson College in Davidson, North Carolina. We look forward to hearing about these new chapters' activities in the future!

*Grand' Merci from the Newsletter Editor
Each year I again wholeheartedly thank each and every contributor to the PI DELTA PHI Newsletter, for without you there would be no news: the Summer Scholarship recipients whose unique personalized thank you letters recreate their unforgettable summers in francophone areas and encourage others to persevere in their studies of French; the individual chapters themselves, each constantly adding new members and lending their time and efforts to promoting French and francophone studies; the diligent and dedicated chapter moderators, some of whom have served the organization for over twenty years; the student chapter officers with their enthusiastic reports of field trips to films, concerts, and all things francophone; and those without whom you would not receive these pages: my departmental assistant Jessica Weaver, the layout staff in the university's graphics services, the printers in their publications department; and the bulk mailers with whom final arrangements are made for labeling and mailing to each chapter moderator a set of more than three hundred newsletter copies. Ultimately, the PI DELTA PHI Newsletter that you receive is the result of the combined efforts of individuals like you. I personally am indebted to all contributors, and ask that you continue to send newsworthy material to us to make the Newsletter even better. Merci infiniment.*

Karen Renick
Newsletter Editor

Spring 2010 Chapter News

ALPHA IOTA chapter at the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas inducted seven new regular members during its initiation ceremony on November 10, 2009: Lisa Arth, Katy Crawford, Tiffany Hillan, Cassandra Leach, Courtney Roberts, Thomas Gouel and Christophe Grall. Chapter president Laetitia Knight and French student Morgan Hillan also attended. The graduate students had the honor of reading “France, mère des arts” by Joachim du Bellay, and Mrs. Arth read a moving passage from the book of Proverbs. Participants also enjoyed beverages and snacks after the ceremony. Students Jackie Ojeda and Hervé Kouevi could not attend the ceremony on that day but were inducted later in the month.



Alpha Iota induction ceremony, Nov. 10, 2009 (from left to right): Katy Crawford, Cassandra Leach, Courtney Roberts, Lisa Arth, president Laetitia Knight, Tiffany Hillan, Christophe Grall and Thomas Gouel.

ZETA CHI, California Lutheran University’s chapter of Pi Delta Phi, along with the French Club (Club de Français) participated in the “Culture Shock” event on the CLU campus Friday, February 19, 2010. For this event showcasing various multicultural groups on campus, French Club organized a table where students could decorate Mardi Gras masks, since Mardi Gras was the previous Tuesday. There were a multitude of decorative items with which students could bedeck the mask of their choosing, including brightly hued feathers, sequins of various shapes and designs, as well as the always fashionable glitter glue. Though it served as a fun, creative outlet for students, the table was also an excellent vehicle for generating interest in and publicizing the club’s calendar of upcoming events.

The following Saturday, February 20, some members visited the Getty Center in Los Angeles. Numerous periods and art styles are represented at the Getty, but the most enticing exhibition for most of us was the French furniture collection dating mainly from the 17th and 18th centuries. There is good reason for these furniture items to be placed in a museum, because the skill required to expertly craft the pieces is astonishing. Some of our favorites included both of the beds on display, one being a particularly feathery “lit à la Polonoise” from the period 1775–1780.

In April, French Club will stage its annual Fête aux Crêpes in conjunction with the Study Abroad and Multicultural Programs offices, and adding a new twist, the club will offer fondue to sate any other sugary cravings students, professors and administrators alike might have. Also during the month of April, we will screen the film *L’Auberge espagnole* and also hope to host an escargot dinner. Bon appétit! The chapter’s annual initiation will be held during the Festival of Scholars on Monday, April 26 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Scandinavian Center adjacent to the campus.

ETA IOTA chapter at Sam Houston State in Huntsville, Texas hosted its initiation ceremony on Nov. 11, 2009. Six students were initiated at the ceremony, which was held during La Semaine du Français. The ceremony was presided over by the chapter president, Joanne Blackwell and secretary Veronica Wilkerson—both French minors and members. Drs. Rafael Saumell-Munoz, Kay Raymond, and Shirin Edwin attended, along with friends and family of the initiates. Soon after the event, the French Club hosted the 3rd annual French cuisine tasting to honor the new initiates and as part of the celebrations of La Semaine du Français. Some of the authentically prepared dishes included Coquilles St. Jacques, Quiche florentine, couscous, croissants, baguettes, crudités, poulet rôti, and various French cheeses.



(Left to right): Dr. Shirin Edwin (chapter moderator), Grayson Posey, Jennifer Jackson, Brittany Waguspak, Ashley Warren, and T. Ben Nyabadza.

XI NU chapter was installed at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska on Friday, November 20, 2009 by Pi Delta Phi National President Dr. Scott Fish. Chapter Moderator Dr. Lucille Roy-Hewiston presided over the evening ceremony. A large number of Regular and Honorary members were inducted into the chapter, and students participated in an elaborate cultural—and often wonderfully humorous—sketch and presentation. Immediately following the ceremony, members and guests gathered for a variety of hors d'oeuvres, cheeses and juices. Later in the evening, Drs. Roy-Hewiston and Fish were joined for dinner by French Program members Dr. David Vanderboegh and Professor Jan Lund.



Dr. Lucille Roy-Hewiston moderated the induction ceremony for new members in the XI NU chapter at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska.

MU UPSILON chapter at Rockhurst University in Kansas City, Missouri held its initiation ceremony on February 1, 2010. Dr. Patricia Cleary Miller composed a poem in French for the occasion, and Marie Pickard of the Advancement Office read a poem in honor of Haiti. Professors Liz Bono and Claudine Evans read a text about the francophone world and the importance of French.



Initiates of the MU UPSILON chapter at Rockhurst University.



A student presentation during the XI NU ceremony.

XI MU chapter at Roger Williams University in Bristol, Rhode Island, recently formed in 2009, is working in conjunction with the university's French Club. The club's student leader is Lisa Bourassa, who is also a Pi Delta Phi member. The two groups worked together on the Pi Delta Phi ceremony last year. The moderator for the chapter is Peter Thompson.

XI XI chapter at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas held its initiation ceremony on Friday, February 26, 2010, at 3 PM. Fourteen students and twenty-four professors and administrators were initiated. Present were the following members of the administration: the Provost, the Dean and Associate Dean of the college, the chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and the head of International Programs. Following the initiation, French students shared their feelings about their study of the French Language and Literature and also talked about their experiences living abroad. All attendees were treated to cookies and punch after the ceremony.



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To recognize outstanding scholarship in the French language and literature

To increase the knowledge and admiration of Americans for the contributions of France to world culture

To stimulate and encourage cultural activities which will lead to a deeper appreciation of francophone cultures and peoples

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