



# The Diamond

A publication of Lambda Sigma National Sophomore Honor Society

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## Leaving a Lambda Sigma Legacy

Unbelievably, the end of your active year of membership is now in sight! I hope that you can look back with pride and satisfaction at all that your chapter has accomplished in the past six months. You still have three more months, give or take, to continue to build the legacy you, as a chapter will leave to your campus and community. Make the most of this time!

Selecting, orienting, and initiating a new chapter for 2016-2017 is, of course, one of the most important responsibilities yet to come. Your advisor(s), the national web site, and your national board liaison are great resources to aid you in this process. If you follow the plan you developed for your rituals report and rely on your resources, you will be well on your way to a successful new member season!

Because Lambda Sigma has 100% turnover in membership every year, it is especially important that the 2015-2016 chapter documents your operations and passes them along to the new group. I recommend a transition meeting after new officers have been selected, with a time to share general information from current officers to new officers, plus a one-on-one meeting between each current officer and his/her replacement. Files and/or travel drives with important information (forms, procedures, and examples) should be exchanged. Be sure to leave the new chapter a legacy of accurate and up-to-date material.

In addition, continue to be a resource for next year's chapter. Many chapters elect student advisors who will help to guide next year's organization and provide continuity from one year to the next; this is an effective strategy for helping the new chapter build on the success of this year. Make sure all reports are filed for 2015-2016 and that the membership list, pin orders, and fees (including the conference assessment) are

sent to Dr. Ron Wolfe, national executive secretary prior to June 1 or even earlier. Many chapters will also send a contribution to the national Lambda Sigma scholarship fund along with their fees.



**Denise L. Rode  
National President**

Do not forget that each chapter is able to nominate one candidate for one of the five national scholarships given out over the summer. Lambda Sigma honor cords are available for purchase, too. See the national web site for more information on these items.

The national Lambda Sigma board is busy planning for the 2016 presidents' conference, which will be held September 23-25 at the Downtown Pittsburgh Wyndam Hotel. Details on this leadership development experience will reach your new chapter president over the summer. A new national board initiative is developing a video to orient new chapter officers to their important roles. Watch for more information later this spring.

Finally, I'm delighted to announce that we expect to install two new Lambda Sigma chapters this spring at Western Alabama University and at Loyola University in Chicago. Our vice president, John Hauser, has been busy talking with campuses across the country which are considering the benefits of bringing Lambda Sigma to their university or college. If you have ideas for expanding our presence in higher education, please let us know!

I hope your Lambda Sigma experience this year has been a rich and rewarding one – one that you will build on as you approach the half-way mark to graduation. Thank you for your service and commitment in 2015-16!

In leadership, scholarship, fellowship, and service,

**Denise L. Rode, Ed.D.  
National Lambda Sigma President** ♦

## Remembering Dorothy Mistifer, ACHS Executive Director

Although she touched the lives of millions of college and university honor students, most would never recognize her name. But when she died in September 2015, she left a forty-year legacy that helped shape all honor societies around the world and the students who enjoy the recognition that honor society membership brings.

Her name is Dorothy Mistifer. And if you have been recognized by a legitimate honor society, you were a direct beneficiary of her tireless devotion to excellence. She insisted on high standards for all societies who were members of the Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS), an organization she served for four decades, most recently as its Executive Director.

Mistifer distained bogus honor societies and fought tirelessly to make sure all students and their families were made aware of those groups who tried to mimic legitimate societies, usually for profit. Even some established societies who failed to pass the litmus test of transparency and high standards often found her an adversary who insisted that the “honor” in honor society be respected and followed.

Two colleagues expressed her strategic importance to the past and future of honor societies everywhere.

As interim Executive Director Lisa Wooton Booth put it, “Dorothy was a staunch proponent of ethical, transparent practices for

honor societies and a champion for high standards...who set a tone of integrity and wisdom that each of our member societies works hard to achieve on the campuses we serve.”

And Bill Johnson, of Sigma Tau Delta Honor Society described her as, “the cornerstone, the prophet, the warden, the mentor, the go-to person, the dedicated honor society director, the all-around catcher-in-the-rye whose guidance has aided every one of the ACHS organizations – and many who aren’t members.”

Students who are invited to join an honor society today can check on the legitimacy of the invitation by going to the ACHS web site where member societies are listed ([www.achsnatl.org](http://www.achsnatl.org)). They are the ones who exist for the right reasons, and if the society is not listed there, chances are it is one of those bogus groups who are trying to capitalize on respected societies that have maintained the standards that Mistifer helped to establish and maintain.

So, if you are recognized by an honor society on your campus, remember Dorothy Mistifer as the champion whose insistence on the highest standards of excellence makes your recognition meaningful. And if you are one of those hundreds of students who have received scholarships from a legitimate honor society, you can thank Dorothy Mistifer for her efforts on behalf of outstanding scholarship.

In any case, enjoy the continued fruits of her labor of love – and above all, remember her name – Dorothy Mistifer. ♦

**Ron Wolfe**  
**Lambda Sigma, National Executive Secretary**

## Gift of Honor Presented at Presidents' Conference

The Gift of Honor is the highest recognition that can be given to an individual by the National Lambda Sigma Society. It was announced that Linda Fuerst was the recipient of this honor at the presidents' conference held at Middle Tennessee State University this past September. Fuerst began her work with Lambda Sigma in 1996 as an advisor to the *Alpha Pi* chapter at Lawrence University. She remained their advisor for 18 years until leaving the university in 2014. During this time *Alpha Pi* consistently was recognized as an honor chapter, the highest



Linda Fuerst

honor bestowed upon our chapters. She also was a dedicated member on the national board for 15 years serving first as an administrative advisor and then as the conference and meeting coordinator.

Fuerst joined the staff at Lawrence University in 1982 as a secretary in the Campus Activities Office. In 1996 she was promoted to senior administrative assistant in the Dean of Student's Office. In 2009 she was promoted to alumni volunteer coordinator. Currently, she serves as the training assistant at Technical Prospects. She resides in Wisconsin with her husband, Leo and their four dogs where they enjoy their passion, training their dogs for competition in the North American Dog Agility venue. While all four dogs have competed, one recently retired and the youngest won the 12" pre-elite division of the national championships in September. Previously they had a two time national champion and a three time national champion. ♦

Please visit the Lambda Sigma website at  
[www.lambdasigma.org](http://www.lambdasigma.org) for additional chapter articles.

## Iota and Lambda Receive Outstanding Chapter Awards at the Presidents' Conference

In the fall at the presidents' conference *Iota* and *Lambda* received the Most Outstanding Chapter Awards for the 2014-15 academic year. While *Lambda* was recognized in the fall *Diamond*, *Iota*, at The University of Mississippi, was mistakenly not included. Very deserving of this award, *Iota* has consistently been an honor chapter with high visibility on campus balancing numerous service opportunities both on campus and in the community. During the 2014-15 year, these projects ranged from supporting literacy programs, to at-risk youth, to participating in the campus, citywide project, The Big Event. Over 500 books were provided for kids to take home over the summer months; over 300 people attended a fundraiser for Leapfrog, a local after school mentoring program for at-risk youth; members worked at the Oxford Community Gardens, in support of the local food pantry; and members participated in Green Grove, the campus-wide game day recycling initiative to name a few of their projects. On campus first year students were targeted as *Iota* assisted in the freshmen move-in day and also hosted a mixer with Omicron Delta Kappa and the freshmen honor societies for all first year students. Scholarship, leadership, fellowship, and service were important objectives as the chapter planned their activities and projects for the year as well as selected their new members. Through their selection process this past year, they showed commitment to diversity through sending multiple emails to all students, as well as reaching out to athletes and first generation students. Their efforts paid off with over 300 applications received. Congratulations *Iota* on the Most Outstanding Chapter Award! ♦

## Omicron Promotes Literacy and Membership

The Omicron chapter of Northern Illinois University has many big things planned for this semester. So far, we have come up with some outstanding ideas for recruitment and service.

Our recruitment focus this semester is to diversify our applicants. To do so, we are getting the Lambda Sigma name out on campus through flyers, digital marketing, and information sessions. We hope to reach potential members from a

variety of areas on campus so more people will know about the amazing work being done in this organization.

To support the society's goals of literacy, supporting underprivileged youth, and community outreach, we are planning a book drive. All donations will be given to University Village, an affordable housing community in DeKalb, IL. This neighborhood is developing a new literacy program for the children living there, meaning they are in need of books to promote reading. Once the book drive has been completed, we hope to take part in the literacy program through further volunteering. ♦

**Kristen O'Connor**  
**Omicron Public Relations Chair**

## National Scholarship Reminder

Applications for five \$1000 scholarships are due May 1, 2016. Lambda Sigma chapters are invited to nominate one of their current members for these Lambda Sigma scholarships for the 2016-17 academic year. As you select this person, be certain that you use a fair and open process to choose someone who meets the national scholarship eligibility requirements. These include a second year student who has:

- ♦ maintained high scholastic standards
- ♦ made significant contributions to the chapter, university, and community

- ♦ demonstrated leadership ability

Contributions for the scholarships may be sent to Ron Wolfe, executive secretary, at the end of the year with your annual reports and fees. While larger donations are encouraged, a minimum donation of \$50 is required to be considered for honor chapter status.

Again, applications are due May 1, 2016. For more information contact Terri Mando at [tbm10@psu.edu](mailto:tbm10@psu.edu). ♦



## Diversity Statement

Inherent in the purposes and ideals of Lambda Sigma Society is the understanding of the importance of diversity within the organization in achieving its goals. To this end, the National Executive Board of Lambda Sigma Society encourages its member chapters to actively pursue candidates for membership who would broaden and strengthen the local chapters by providing diverse backgrounds. This diversity within the organization should serve to enhance the potential for leadership and service by acknowledging the wide range of students within the college or university and their potential to contribute to the goals of the society. ♦



# Have a Magical Day

**W**alt Disney once said, “All our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them.”

Disney has gone down in the history books as one of the best leaders, innovators, and creative geniuses in America, and maybe even the world. It is because of this amazing man that millions of people’s dreams come true every day. It is because of this amazing man that my dreams are coming true.

On October 16, 2015, I ran into my friend’s residence hall room screaming, “I got in, I got in!” I was accepted into the Disney College Program, and my life was about to change forever. This was an experience that was going to force me out of my comfort zone, and throw me into adulthood much faster than I was ready for. But there was no turning back, and I knew I had to take advantage of this program because opportunities like this do not come around often. There is no better company to work for than Disney where I can fully immerse myself in the Lambda Sigma core values – leadership, fellowship, scholarship, and service.

The name Disney is well known around the world because of Walt Disney’s exceptional leadership abilities. He had a vision of a company that could create magic and bring a smile to anyone’s face, young and old. He has done exactly that. During my first two days of the program, I met several leaders that have already

made an incredible impact on me. One of the leaders was Randy, who was leading a group of college programmers (CPs) through casting. He knew that he was talking to a group of nervous, confused college students, so his number one priority was to make us laugh and feel comfortable. He then went on to tell us about how he was once a CP just like us. He went on to do a professional internship with Disney, and now he is the head of recruiting for the program. I instantly knew this was someone that I needed to get to know because he was living my dreams. One of the things that I have learned about leadership at Disney is that hard work is not optional, and respect is the key to a healthy relationship between leader and follower.

Scholarship and service are two very important values in the Disney Company. Disney’s goal was to achieve the impossible, and in order to do so, he had to create a work force made of the best of the best. He needed people who were not only smart, but also cared about making the world a better place just as much as he did. I am honored to have been accepted into such a selective program and I plan to prove my worth. Most of the students in this program are working 40 hours a week in the parks, taking online classes, and attending Disney seminars. In order to be successful in my job, my classes, and the pursuit of my future, it is crucial that I manage my time efficiently and put 100% effort into all of the work I do. I may not be participating in organized community service events while at Disney, but I will be serving other people every day. Not

just serving food, because I am getting paid to do that, but making magical moments happen for people who may need it. That is what is most important while working in Disney. One of the very first character performers to be Snow White in Disney World said, “When you are hugging a child, always be the last one to let go because you never know how long they need it.” Whether I am hugging a child, blowing bubbles, or sprinkling pixie dust, I will be creating magic in other people’s lives that may really need it. That is the kind of service that I am excited to experience in Disney, and I know that is the kind of service that will truly change my life.

Finally, fellowship is one of the most important staples of the Disney College Program. I came to Disney not knowing a single person, and anxiously hoping I would be able to make a few friends in the first few days. Luckily, I was placed with a great group of roommates who were just as nervous and excited as I was. We have only been here for three days, and we have already formed strong friendships that I have a feeling will last a lifetime. It is the people that I meet and the friends that I make that will affect my experiences here the most. The adventures that I go on with my roommates will turn into memories that I will have forever. And that is all I could ever ask for. I am so excited to experience more of these values as I pursue my dreams. ♦

**Jane Paige Burkett**  
**Beta Mu Member**  
**Disney College Program**

# The Benefits of Volunteering

**V**olunteering is the most selfless thing you can possibly do. Putting your time and energy into something for the betterment of others is the greatest feeling and it gives you a sense of accomplishment.

I first started volunteering in high school and have never stopped. When I came to Pace University I knew I wanted to

continue volunteering. As a freshman, it gave me a chance to socialize, make new friends, and get acquainted with my future classmates. Volunteering is more than just doing work and that’s part of the reason I enjoy it so much. You make new and unexpected friends that can last a lifetime.

I started with CCAR and they introduced me to NYC Cares. The first event I did was Paint a School Day. This event lasted five hours on a Saturday. There were about 100 volunteers doing tasks that

ranged from painting walls, to gardening. My task, along with a few other volunteers



was to paint fruit canvases for the middle school’s cafeteria. I chose the grapes because they are my favorite fruit. We sat down on white sheets, to minimize the mess, in the school’s gym and began painting. During that time, we got to

know each other, learning where everyone was from and what majors were. We talked the whole time and by the end of the event we all had a new best friend.

After we were finished, we left the canvas to dry and went to see if anyone needed assistance. My second task of the day was painting shapes on the staircase walls. I met even more people and had the best time painting with them. When you converse and work at the same time, the work seems to get done so much faster. At the end of those five hours we left that elementary school ten times better than we found it. The thought of the kids faces on the following Monday morning when they see the changes, just makes it all worth it. The experience was amazing, I had a great time and I also did something good for

others. I have to say it was a Saturday well spent and I would do it every weekend if I could.

This love for volunteering is why I joined Lambda Sigma. Its major focus on community service is what makes me so excited to be a part of it. Lambda Sigma gives me ample opportunities to participate in service allowing me to continue helping others. Another benefit is a chance to help others while making connections with the top tier of the sophomore class!

Through Lambda Sigma, other people can also learn more about the amazing job this organization does. Freshmen also learn about Lambda Sigma and the



opportunities available to them if they become members.

Through Lambda Sigma, I not only feel like I have made an impact in my community, but have also grown tremendously. It has given me a place to work hard, and make this world a better place to live. ♦

**Julissa Smith**  
**Beta Zeta Member**

## **Iota Member Spends Time Abroad to Improve the Living Conditions of Others**



Mexico, fully exemplifying the pillars on which Lambda Sigma stands. Here is her description of her time there:

“This January I spent a week in La Joya, Mexico, a small 800-people village about two hours outside of Guadalajara. It was my fifth trip since 2010, and over the past five years, I have gained several

The Iota chapter of Lambda Sigma at the University of Mississippi is comprised of 50 driven leaders who have found amazing ways to build relationships and serve their community around Oxford. We have helped the environment by working with Green Grove during Ole Miss’ very successful football season. We have helped at risk youth in Oxford through helping tutor and celebrate Christmas with LeapFrog. However, while our members have poured themselves whole-heartedly into our local community and served month to month while balancing rigorous academic and extracurricular schedules, some have also taken their skills and servant hearts abroad. Alexis Smith, a double major in international studies and Spanish, was one of our members who spent her Christmas break overseas in

relationships in the village. Each year that my team and I have gone we have been able to better work alongside the community to foster economic growth and relieve poverty. We have helped to build an orphanage that is almost completed. Men in the town have done all of the construction, and all have been paid much, much higher than other construction workers in the area. Once finished, the orphanage will be home to over 30 kids, and again, local people will run the orphanage, being paid more than most locals. While in a Joya, we run a ‘store,’ providing clothes and shoes for the townspeople. We make sure to first serve the poorest of the town, and as the week goes on, we open the store to others.

We guarantee that those with the most need get first choice. There have also been continued efforts to establish a sewing cooperative among the women in the town. We are also looking to create a college sponsorship program, as university is free in Mexico but so many cannot even afford to leave their jobs for four-years to receive a degree. The program would cover food and housing costs for the length it takes to complete a degree-program. It is exciting to be connected with such a great place! After spending so much time in the community, I’ve gained genuine and incredible friendships, send birthday gifts, and talk on the phone with community members weekly. Engaging in sustainability work has changed my life, and it is incredible to see what good can come from joining with others from across the world to improve living conditions and create better economic situations.”

We hope that this shows how Lambda Sigma can motivate and cultivate its members to follow their aspirations whether locally and internationally while still upholding the principles for which we stand. Thank you, Alexis, for sharing your story. ♦

**David Newman, Iota President**

# SPOTLIGHT ON LAMBDA SIGMA'S

## Andrew Henley Serves as Role Model

Free time is hard to come by for a scholar such as Andrew Henley. As a history major with a minor in information systems, Henley has more than enough to keep himself busy. However, he also decided to apply to become a member of Lambda Sigma in his second semester at Westminster College. He was accepted into the *Lambda* chapter and soon after was elected as president. He has since proven to be a model of the four pillars of Lambda Sigma.

Throughout the following summer Henley worked hard to formulate ways to bring the chapter to a new level and attending the presidents' conference last year at Auburn University gave him even more ideas and drive to do this. He changed Lambda Sigma at Westminster College during his presidency by making it into an organization that provided students with an outstanding opportunity to experience working to better themselves through service and academic fellowship. Fundraising for the chapter during his presidency covered all

expenses incurred during the year and Lambda Sigma became one of the more well-known organizations on our campus with Henley as its face. He also pioneered the path for our chapter to be recognized as Outstanding Chapter of the Year at the presidents' conference in September.

In addition to serving as the president of the *Lambda* chapter, Henley ran and was elected as one of the student representatives on the national board. When asked what made him want to run for this position, he said, "I thought it would be a good opportunity and after talking with prior student representatives and Dr. Neal Edman, who serves on the national board, I decided it would be a good fit for my capabilities through offering a student's perspective and also technical assistance to board members." According to Edman, "Andrew has brought to the position enormous energy, creativity, enthusiasm and a technical prowess that has been unsurpassed."

It is clear that Henley is passionate about Lambda Sigma but it would be easy to ask why he chose this organization to be one of the ones he dedicates so much time to. The easiest way he can answer this question is to say, "I enjoys giving

back to the community through a leadership position with like-minded individuals." This passion continues to be a help to our chapter today as he persistently encourages first year students to strive to attain membership in Lambda Sigma in an effort to give back to this rewarding organization that has helped shape him into the individual he is today.

Ultimately, Andrew Henley has been and will continue to be a great role model for not only the *Lambda* chapter, but for every chapter around the country. If we could exhibit the same dedication, energy, and ability to motivate that he has, Lambda Sigma as a whole would greatly benefit. His acts of selflessness throughout his membership of Lambda Sigma are well worth recognition of every member of our organization. In closing, one piece of advice that Henley would like to share with every member across the country is, "Never pass up on opportunities that are presented to you." Thank you Andrew Henley for your service to not only the *Lambda* chapter, but also to Lambda Sigma as a whole. ♦

**Daniel J. Larson**  
*Lambda* President

## Honor Cords Available

Many chapters are now providing honor cords for their graduating seniors to be worn at graduation. If you are interested in ordering these blue and gold cords, you may do so by contacting the following company:

**Schoen Trimming and Cord Co., Inc.**  
at <http://www.cordsandtassels.com/products2.htm>  
or calling them at 212-255-3949. ♦

## Beta Lambda Member Goes Above the Call

Current member, Joshua Allen Oxendine, goes beyond Lambda Sigma's call to service. As a local, he has made it his personal mission to give back to the community that made him the person Oxendine is today. As a student employee at the Office of Community and Civic Engagement, and a Student Service Leader of the Day of Service, his job includes planning the Days of Service and recruiting

volunteers. Josh puts it best when he says, "I volunteer because I know it is one of my responsibilities. As a student at UNCP, a member of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, and a member of the Pembroke community, I feel responsible for what occurs in my surroundings." The *Beta Lambda* chapter is proud of the impact Oxendine has made in Pembroke, and the legacy he is leaving behind. ♦

**Berri Locklear**  
*Beta Lambda* President

**Brittany Worley**  
*Beta Lambda* Treasurer



## Former Member at Pace University – Pleasantville Campus Serves as Advisor

While Pace has many great organizations on campus, we have found that the reason for their longevity reaches beyond the students. Student involvement is extremely valuable, but as presidents and executive board members graduate or move on the organization needs consistency. A strong advisor can be the reason why an organization gains the credibility and support that it does.



Vincent Birkenmeyer,  
Beta Eta Advisor

Vincent Birkenmeyer remains extremely loyal to Lambda Sigma and the relationships he has made through these experiences. This alumnus demonstrates what it means to support and live by the four pillars of Lambda Sigma – leadership, scholarship, fellowship and service.

Not only did Birkenmeyer attend Pace for his undergraduate degree, but also after graduating he continued to bleed blue and gold by pursuing a career at the

University. During his undergraduate years, he was Lambda Sigma president in addition to his many other involvements on campus. Today, Birkenmeyer continues his ongoing commitment to Lambda Sigma by acting as the *Beta Eta* advisor. As the presidents come and go he is very familiar with anything related to Lambda Sigma from forms to what it means to fulfill the four pillars. The ongoing support and his knowledge have been invaluable to *Beta Eta* presidents. Anisa Bartholomew, current president states, “I have worked closely with Vinnie over the past year due to Lambda Sigma and Residential Life so it is my great honor to testify to Vinnie’s many achievements as a Pace graduate, employee and a fellow Lambda Sigma alumnus.” ♦

**Anisa Bartholomew**  
**Beta Eta President**

## Epsilon Welcomes New Advisor

The *Epsilon* chapter of Lambda Sigma at Allegheny College welcomes to its ranks a new advisor, Ms. Carly Masiroff.

Masiroff hails from Erie, Pennsylvania, with a far-reaching background in student affairs. As an undergraduate at Clarion University, she studied communication / film and women’s studies, working as the student programmer for the Women’s Studies Department. “I was just like you,” she says, “crazy involved and trying to save the world.” After graduating, she worked with the girls’ unit at a juvenile prison, cultivating a love for counseling students, which pushed her to pursue a career in student affairs.

Later, she earned her master’s degree in student affairs in higher education at Slippery Rock University. At Allegheny College, she provides academic advising and peer mentoring as the assistant

director of the Maytum Learning Commons.

Masiroff says she is excited to take on her new role in Lambda Sigma. Reflecting on the tenets of our organization, she says, “I think the members of this organization fall very much under the category of servant leaders; that is, your goal is to serve others, so you want to be leaders that help, not dictate.” She is interested in expanding our chapter’s capacity to achieve that end.

Perhaps the greatest virtue of Lambda Sigma and the most considerable advantage we as members are afforded is that the unique structure of our institution encourages us, even demands us to be innovative, intellectually fresh, always on our toes in pursuit of good ideas. Given but one, fleeting year of active membership and granted important leadership roles, which, for many of us, are uncharted territory, we must thrive on newness of experience. Masiroff, as a mid-year newcomer to Lambda Sigma, agrees with that assessment. In the spirit of trying novel

strategies to achieve important goals, she plans to infuse her skills and insights into our chapter. “Everyone here seems to be very positive about wanting to make a difference in the community,” she says, “so hopefully with my background in programming and student involvement I can help you with that, pushing you in a direction to do even better, to put all your great ideas to use.”

We welcome our new advisor’s fresh take on things. With her help, we in the *Epsilon* chapter know we will continue to make meaningful strides toward accomplishing excellence in our community, in our college, and in ourselves. ♦

**Nate Coffman**  
**Epsilon Member**



# Campus & Community Service

## Alpha Gamma Works with a Local Non-profit Organization

**W**e are excited to report that the Alpha Gamma chapter at Duquesne University has taken part in several service events on campus during the fall semester. Our chapter organized a service event to benefit Catholic Charities Free Health Care Clinic of Pittsburgh, a local non-profit organization committed to assisting those who cannot afford health care. For our service project, we assembled Winter Pick-Me-Up Bags for the clinic patients. These bags contained individually packaged tea bags, travel sized tissues, antibacterial

hand wipes, cough drops, cookies, and get well cards, made by Lambda Sigma members. Our hope was to provide patients with rudimentary supplies to fight the annual flu and other winter ailments. Over 100 bags were made, therefore each member was responsible for assembling two bags. This project allowed members to reach outside of Duquesne and gain meaningful experience working with those who are in need while impacting our local community in a positive way.

Drawing on one another's ideas and opinions proved to be an absolutely essential aspect of planning this community service project. Being a part of this honor society has connected each of us with a group of individuals who strive to create an atmosphere that fosters leadership, scholarship, fellowship



and enthusiasm for service. As a body of like-minded individuals, we feed off of each other's positive energy and provide one another with constant inspiration, support and encouragement in both our academic as well as philanthropic endeavors. ♦

**Christine E. DeAndrea**  
*Alpha Gamma Parliamentarian*

## Alpha Iota Organizes Fall Festival

**D**uring the fall semester, members of the Alpha Iota chapter of Lambda Sigma at Mississippi State University volunteered with the local Boys and Girls Club, both as individual mentors and as part of a major chapter-wide event. Working with the MSU freshman year experience, Day One, the chapter planned a fall festival for the

youth. The afternoon included a variety of activities including festival games, face painting, crafts, kite flying, and a space jump. With all of the activities, most of the fun involved the volunteers playing with the children all afternoon. Every child was filled with joy and laughter that day, and the same went for the volunteers. The event was truly memorable! ♦



*Alpha Iota member participates in the fall festival*



*Enjoying activities with The Boys and Girls Club*

**Hasna Khandekar**  
*Alpha Iota Member*

## Alpha Kappa Supports Hope Lodge

**O**ne of the most rewarding projects the Alpha Kappa chapter of Lambda Sigma did this year was a visit to Hope Lodge. Hope Lodge is a national charity that provides a home for

patients going through cancer treatment. With so many stresses and worries in their lives, Hope Lodge helps make their lives a little easier by providing free lodging to patients and their caregivers. The only thing they have to worry about is meals, but sometimes, outside groups make that even easier on them by cooking a meal for the residents. The Alpha Kappa chapter of Lambda Sigma planned a meal of spaghetti,

meatballs, alfredo sauce, tomato sauce, salad, bread, brownies, and ice-cream. We prepared and served it to the Hope Lodge guests on a Sunday in November. It was amazing to see the joy and thankfulness of all the cancer victims and to hear their remarkable stories of perseverance and bravery. ♦

**Jacqueline Weiland**  
*Alpha Kappa Vice President*



## Alpha Epsilon Sponsors a Campus-wide Halloween Party

This year one of our big fundraisers was sponsoring a Halloween party. The party was very successful not only due to the large number of guests who attended, but also the large number of members who helped to plan the event.

Alpha Epsilon met weekly from the beginning of the fall semester to talk about every little detail. We reached out to the community and were able to get decorations donated for our party. Once the decorations were arranged, we planned the music, games, and refreshments for the event. Each member brought a dish keeping in mind the Halloween theme. We were able to rent the "HUT" which is available to students on nights during the week.

Sponsoring a Halloween party was a great idea for many reasons. We were able to enjoy the company of our own members. This was our first big activity, so it was nice to get to know our members a little better. This party also brought in freshman who were interested in joining Lambda Sigma as a sophomore! We were very excited to see current members, possible future members, and community members have an interest in our organization. ♦

**Mareca Lodge**  
Alpha Epsilon President

## Beta Gamma Members Support Local Nursing Home

Members from the Beta Gamma chapter at the University of Pikeville decided to take a break from the unrelenting stress of finals

## Beta Epsilon Continues Partnership with The Bridge

As part of its annual service initiatives, the Beta Epsilon chapter at Washington University in St. Louis has been volunteering at The Bridge in St. Louis throughout the year. The Bridge has been working to eradicate homelessness in the city of St. Louis since 2005 and, with the help of countless volunteers and donors, offers its guests shelter as well as decent meals.

Beta Epsilon members first got involved with The Bridge last year and could not speak highly enough of their time with the organization. Alum Amir Hassan said of the experience, "Volunteering at The Bridge allowed me to explore issues of poverty, homelessness, and non-profit work in St. Louis. It sparked a passion in me for learning more about marginalized populations, both in our local communities and within larger national and global contexts."

As a result of last year's success, Beta Epsilon has enthusiastically continued its partnership with The Bridge, breaking into volunteer teams and working in the soup kitchen several days each month. ♦

**Sophie Lombardo**  
Beta Epsilon  
Random Acts of  
Kindness Coordinator

to visit the Mountain View Health Care Center. During the visit members assisted the residents in making Christmas-themed crafts.

The chapter designed four different crafts that the residents could enjoy making. It was a very rewarding experience for Lambda Sigma member and resident alike. The residents were excited to decorate their rooms with items they had made. Staff members

## Omega Supports Freedom Honor Flight

The students of the Pittsburg State University chapter of Lambda Sigma spent one of their meetings writing letters to veterans who will be taking part in the Freedom Honor Flight to Washington, D.C.

The Freedom Honor Flight is an organization which seeks to fly veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit the memorials erected in their honor. The organization is run entirely by volunteers and veterans pay nothing to participate in it.

Members were encouraged to personalize their letters as much as possible, and some included prayers or doodles along with words of thankfulness or encouragement. The letters were given to veterans to be read during future flights.

"It was a rewarding opportunity to offer some love and appreciativeness to veterans that would otherwise be without letters," said Garrett Harmon, president of Omega chapter.

Pittsburg State University's chapter has also participated in a number of other volunteer projects throughout the year. Some of the projects included collecting cans for the Wesley House Food Drive and participating in the Adopt-a-Family program. ♦

**Alex Battitori**  
Omega Editor

remarked how much the residents enjoyed the activity planned by the Beta Gamma chapter.

The members also enjoyed their time spent at the nursing home, resulting in a return to Mountain View in February to do Valentine's Day crafts once again. ♦

**Teddy Woods**  
Beta Gamma  
Corresponding Secretary

## Alpha Omega Believes Every Girl Should Look Like a Princess

Prom season is just around the corner and every girl dreams of the perfect dress while, also, dreaming about perfect hair, nails, and shoes. For many girls, prom is about making one feel fabulous for a night, and even look like a princess. This can be a challenge for some people. There are many teenage girls who cannot afford the dress of their dreams, or even afford to go to prom. However, *Alpha Omega* is trying to change that.

Westfield State's Lambda Sigma chapter has taken on the challenge of collecting not only semi-formal dresses, but also prom dresses for girls in need. The word spread around campus and beyond, about the Cinderella Dress Drive. Students collected dresses over winter break, and brought them back to Westfield's campus. Then *Alpha Omega* collected these dresses and donated them to a local high school in need. At the high school girls could try on the donated dresses and chose what dress made them feel like a princess. The remaining dresses were then sent to Good Will where other girls, will hopefully find the dress of their dreams. ♦

**Ashley O'Neil**  
*Alpha Omega President*

**Heather DeMers**  
*Alpha Omega Vice President*



Dresses collected for a local high school prom

## Zeta Serving Those Who Serve Us

Massachusetts University's chapter of Lambda Sigma enjoyed leading and serving in many different ways during the fall semester, but the greatest impact on us and those we served was our cookie baking day for local police officers and fire fighters. Police and fire fighters are close to my heart with my dad, my grandpa, two uncles, and now my fiancé all in these fields. They are rewarding career choices, but they are also dangerous, taxing, and often offer little appreciation. Knowing this, we decided to find a way to thank our local officers by baking cookies and delivering them ourselves.

We made five platters of M&M and chocolate chip cookies for each department. After a shopping trip for the ingredients, we then spent one night after classes making cookies. We spent three hours of baking, laughing, and learning more about each other. It resulted in a really great bonding time for our members as well as a wonderful service for our local officers. After everything was baked, the cookies were taste-tested, and our kitchen area was cleaned; we divided the trays and went to deliver them. Every department was very appreciative. I had one that I personally delivered that made all of the planning and working worth it.

## Eta Chapter Partners with Project Linus in Pittsburgh Area

This semester, the *Eta* chapter at Carnegie Mellon University started a new initiative where members do a brief service event at each meeting. It has been a great way to engage members during each meeting and give everyone something to look forward to at the end of chapter meetings. Our first on-going service project to make fleece blankets, has been a partnership with Project Linus in the Pittsburgh area.

It was late in the evening around 9 p.m. by the time I made it to the police department, so of course they were not expecting visitors at this time. When I walked in, the only person I could see was the dispatcher. She had probably been there for about two hours, but she already looked tired and worn out. She greeted me, but not with the friendliest face, and was obviously just holding her breath to hear my complaint. As you might be able to guess, when I actually told her why I was there, her whole face lit up and she genuinely smiled at me. I do not know how long she had been on duty, what problems she had faced that night and week, or what personal issues she might have been dealing with, but in that moment our small gesture of a plate of cookies and a genuine "thank you" was enough to make her night. I trust that all of the officers that came in and received a cookie or two were just as appreciative. I wish our whole group had been there to see her smile so they could see how much that small gesture meant to her and I am sure the officers.

I was extremely proud of our group and the people who were willing to put in their time for this service. We actually were excellent bakers, enjoyed a great evening together, and most importantly, thanked those who serve us daily and reminded them that their efforts do not go unappreciated. ♦

**Alicia Moore**  
*Zeta President*

Members use this opportunity to socialize and bond within the organization while working towards a great cause. All the blankets support Project Linus and its vision, which is "provide love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need through the gifts of new, handmade blankets, lovingly created by volunteer 'blanketeers.'" We are excited to complement this year's Lambda Sigma national service theme with our new chapter initiative. ♦

**Tabish Valliani**  
*Eta President*

## Pi Chapter Embraces Service

**P**i chapter at Auburn University had an incredibly busy and productive fall semester. We began the year with a social gathering at The Red Barn where we all enjoyed pizza and had a chance to get to know each other. It was a great outing and a better way to start the year. In the following days, we assisted with *Move-in Mania*. During these four days we were available to carry boxes, provide directions, answer questions, and assure parents. It was hot, but we sweated through it.

To support the national service focus of underprivileged and at-risk-youth, Pi chapter continued to implement their local program, "Lesson the Risk." This involved members working to set up reading corners in local elementary schools. We also partnered with IMPACT, Auburn University's central resource for volunteering to tutor students and work with Boys' and Girls' Clubs, tutoring in elementary schools, and Reading is Fundamental to Lesson the Risk. We continued our annual book drive by having members "empty the shelves" at home and bring slightly used books to share with schools and the children on the pediatric wing in the hospital.

We have engaged in a range of activities beyond this that include: weekly Bingo at the nursing home, stocking food at the Food Bank, mentoring Freshmen, visiting the Humane Society, and helping plan Alternative Student Break. Through these activities, Lambda Sigma members not only addressed the national service focus, but also got to follow their interests.



Mrs. Claus

Santa so students could have their picture made with Santa. It was great fun. We also passed out candy canes and a list of study tips that the members created. While the fellowship was great, it gave us wonderful visibility on campus, and provided a service! That is hard to beat.

We ended the semester with a great study break project for freshmen. We all showed up on the concourse, main traffic route on campus, and had a member dressed as

Our major project for the year is Operation Tiger Dreams. We are working with the pediatric wing of the local hospital to help kids who are missing school and need to stay on track. There are two parts to this project. First, we will take our Book Wagon to the hospital and allow students to select books to read. They will be able to take these books home with them. The second part involves taking Auburn University t-shirts, cutting the back in half, stitching the cut edges, and sewing ties on each side so the t-shirt can substitute for the hospital gown. We have partnered with local t-shirt stores in this endeavor and have been quite successful. We plan to have Aubie, the Auburn University mascot, go with us when we visit with the Book Wagon and to distribute the modified hospital gowns. We are very excited about the service to the community and, in particular, these kids. ♦



Santa with Pi members



Pi members with their Book Wagon for a pediatric wing in a local hospital

## LAMBDA SIGMA SOCIETY MISSION STATEMENT



Lambda Sigma Society, a national honor society for second year students, is dedicated to the purpose of fostering leadership, scholarship, fellowship and service among its members as they promote the interests of the colleges and universities they represent. ♦





## Serving the Forgotten

If you have ever set foot in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, you know the city is a bit of a kaleidoscope. Bordered on one end by a turbulent, magnificent river and kept alive by the constant echoing of active train tracks, the city harbors a wide variety of characters, from wide-eyed freshman students to seasoned working professionals. Arriving from immensely diverse backgrounds these people inhabit this common space and exist within the boundaries of a city that is always moving and always changing. Almost ironically, positioned in the middle of The University of Alabama's campus is a series of buildings called Capstone Village, which function as a retirement home for those who no longer prefer to live at home and desire a peaceful place to reside. Because of this retirement home's location, often the people who live here become overlooked amidst the crazed rush of this city and pushed to

the periphery of a college culture so centralized around the young.

This year when the *Alpha Tau* chapter was faced with the decision of where to spend our time and money, we looked for a group that was a major part of the Tuscaloosa community, was often overlooked, and could impart wisdom and a new perspective upon all members of our group. It did not take long to identify that helping the residents of Capstone Village would be our perfect service project, so we decided to contact the staff and ask about potential opportunity for service. To our delight we received numerous replies welcoming our presence.

We met on a Friday afternoon and helped conduct the weekly "horse race" that the staff organizes for the residents. This race mimics the format of actual races, allowing residents to place a bet on a horse that he or she thinks will win, and then the game relies on rolling a die to determine which cardboard piece will win. For four hours we rolled dice,

placed bets, and raced cardboard horses, all while individually paired with a resident. This one on one connection transcended the boundaries of conventional philanthropy projects and allowed us to genuinely, wholeheartedly connect with this marginalized and forgotten group. By the end of the experience each member of the *Alpha Tau* chapter, including myself, left with a reinvented sense of the city in which we live. Sharing these experiences and swapping stories with the people at Capstone Village provided an invaluable reminder that even in a city focused so intently upon college students, it is the collection of the whole that truly make up a community. While the *Alpha Tau* chapter has done many other philanthropy endeavors, none of these projects compare to our time spent at the Capstone Village, exploring the bonds of human connection and challenging the ideals of generation gap and marginalization. ♦

**Sam Baker**  
*Alpha Tau Social Media Chair*

## Alpha Lambda Honors Professors Who Make a Difference

Our Lambda Sigma members at D'Youville College hold leadership, scholarship, fellowship, and service in the highest regard. The *Alpha Lambda* chapter thrives on staying involved both on campus and in the community, always ready to make a difference through the promotion of these pillars. Though we certainly look forward to leadership, scholarship, and service opportunities, our members have taken a special interest in the pillar of fellowship by making an effort to value those around us who have impacted our academic experience in a positive way.

D'Youville College provides its students the educational needs that we will one day use to build a future. Our Lambda Sigma members recognize that this journey would not be the same if it were not for our professors. We are beyond grateful to have such wonderful professors at D'Youville College. Other than being extremely knowledgeable, they are passionate, caring, helpful, and eager to go above and beyond for the students of D'Youville. Many of our professors display characteristics that mirror the four pillars, which have a tremendous impact on campus. We make it our goal to let them know that they have made an incredible difference.

One way that the *Alpha Lambda* chapter displays how grateful we are is by honoring a D'Youville professor each month. Our members have the opportunity to nominate and vote for a professor who we believe to have made

a positive impact on our community. Once a professor is chosen, our members present the professor with a plaque and a gift. We also publish an article in our school's newsletter to recognize them and to make our appreciation known. We hope that honoring professors in a public manner assures them that their hard work and dedication have not gone unnoticed. ♦

**Kendyll Smith**  
*Alpha Lambda Member*



## HIV Awareness Week at George Mason University

In the fall *Beta Kappa* chapter at George Mason University was delighted to have some of its members participate in a highly important on-campus event that targets at-risk young people in the community at and around GMU. *Beta Kappa* chapter's new advisor, biology professor Malda Kocache, teaches HIV/AIDS synthesis classes and has a strong interest in promoting awareness of the disease, particularly among teenagers and college students, who comprise one of the greatest risk groups. For several years, she has worked with the Wellness, Alcohol, and Violence Education Services (WAVES) Office on campus to organize GMU's HIV/AIDS Awareness Week. The Awareness Week, which coincides with World AIDS Day on December 1st, takes

place every fall. Some of the events during the week include poetry readings and free HIV testing, as well as individuals who come to speak about their experiences with the disease.

*Beta Kappa* chapter Vice President Hunter Rezek participated in a key part of the Awareness Week. She stated, "I participated in the Red Alert: HIV/AIDS fashion show. This fashion show was organized to bring awareness to the HIV/AIDS virus in a modern way to reach out to a larger and younger audience. At George Mason University, multiple organizations competed in this fashion show. A portion of the fashion show was dedicated to "Project Condom" where the organizations revealed dresses that were made out of condoms. The top three dresses that won were awarded hundreds of dollars. The main idea of the dresses was to get people to ask about the dresses and bring attention to them. With the condom dresses and the fashion show, came questions to be answered about the virus."

Thanks to help from the WAVES Office, GMU was privileged to have pieces of the AIDS quilt displayed on campus. The AIDS quilt commemorates those who passed away from AIDS and was once so large it covered the National Mall in Washington, D.C. However, since then it grew so much it had to be divided. A few of the pieces were hung prominently in the main student center. It is sobering to look at each block and realize that it represents an individual person, life, and identity that was lost to this disease.

HIV/AIDS poses a very real problem to youth in high school and college, particularly in the Washington, D.C. area near George Mason University, where HIV rates are extremely high and constantly growing. The *Beta Kappa* chapter is proud to have service-minded individuals like Rezek and Kocache as an officer and an advisor in their chapter. ♦

**Rachel Potter**  
*Beta Kappa* President

## Lambda Sigma Wristbands

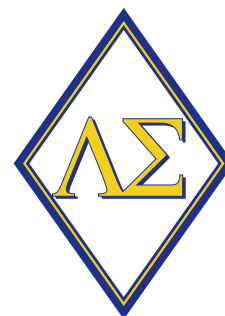
The co-ritual chairs at *Mu* chapter (Eastern Kentucky University) decided to try a new idea for the Gift of Colors this past spring. Instead of the usual items like flowers, they ordered blue and gold wristbands for the

initiates to wear during the entire induction process. The bands allowed them to be recognized by other initiates as they attended classes and this helped them get to know their fellow new members. Also, when friends asked about the bands, they

could use the opportunity to tell them about Lambda Sigma. The bands were very inexpensive. The chapter ordered a five-year supply from [wristbandsale.com](http://wristbandsale.com). ♦

## Professor of the Month Mugs Available

Blue ceramic mugs with the greek letters Lambda Sigma and "Excellence in Teaching" all in gold letters are available for \$7.50 each. Contact John Hauser, national vice president, to place your order. His contact information is listed on the last page of this newsletter. ♦



# Upcoming Deadlines

**MAY 1, 2016**

**Scholarship Application**.....Terri Mando

**JUNE 1, 2016**

**President's Report** .....Ron Wolfe

**Treasurer's Report**

**Advisor's Report**

**Initiate List**

**National Dues (\$40/member)**

**Convention Assessment (\$350)**

**Scholarship Donation** (*Minimum Donation \$50 for Honor Chapter Status*)

All reports and *The Diamond* article are to be submitted electronically. Reports are located on the website. ♦

## Lambda Sigma Chapter Roster

<i>Alpha</i>	University of Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh, PA
<i>Beta</i>	Miami University	Oxford, OH
<i>Epsilon</i>	Allegheny College	Meadville, PA
<i>Zeta</i>	Muskingum University	New Concord, OH
<i>Eta</i>	Carnegie Mellon University	Pittsburgh, PA
<i>Iota</i>	University of Mississippi	University, MS
<i>Lambda</i>	Westminster College	New Wilmington, PA
<i>Omicron</i>	Northern Illinois University	DeKalb, IL
<i>Mu</i>	Eastern Kentucky University	Richmond, KY
<i>Pi</i>	Auburn University	Auburn University, AL
<i>Rho</i>	Thiel College	Greenville, PA
<i>Tau</i>	University of Kansas	Lawrence, KS
<i>Chi</i>	Louisiana Tech University	Ruston, LA
<i>Omega</i>	Pittsburg State University	Pittsburg, KS
<i>Alpha Gamma</i>	Duquesne University	Pittsburgh, PA
<i>Alpha Delta</i>	University of Southern Mississippi	Hattiesburg, MS
<i>Alpha Epsilon</i>	Mansfield University	Mansfield, PA
<i>Alpha Zeta</i>	Texas A & M University	College Station, TX
<i>Alpha Eta</i>	Penn State Behrend	Erie, PA
<i>Alpha Theta</i>	Slippery Rock University	Slippery Rock, PA
<i>Alpha Iota</i>	Mississippi State University	Mississippi State, MS
<i>Alpha Kappa</i>	Georgia Institute of Technology	Atlanta, GA
<i>Alpha Lambda</i>	D'Youville College	Buffalo, NY
<i>Alpha Mu</i>	Berry College	Mt. Berry, GA
<i>Alpha Pi</i>	Lawrence University	Appleton, WI
<i>Alpha Sigma</i>	Gannon University	Erie, PA
<i>Alpha Tau</i>	University of Alabama	Tuscaloosa, AL
<i>Alpha Phi</i>	Ferrum College	Ferrum, VA
<i>Alpha Psi</i>	University of Toledo	Toledo, OH
<i>Alpha Omega</i>	Westfield State College	Westfield, MA
<i>Beta Gamma</i>	University of Pikeville	Pikeville, KY
<i>Beta Delta</i>	Middle Tennessee State University	Murfreesboro, TN
<i>Beta Epsilon</i>	Washington University	St. Louis, MO
<i>Beta Zeta</i>	Pace University – NYC Campus	New York, NY
<i>Beta Eta</i>	Pace University – Pleasantville Campus	Pleasantville, NY
<i>Beta Kappa</i>	George Mason University	Fairfax, VA
<i>Beta Lambda</i>	University of North Carolina – Pembroke	Pembroke, NC
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