



# DELTA OMEGA

## Purdue University 2020-21 Chapter Report

*President:* Anna Adamsson

*Vice President:* Mateo Ramirez

*Treasurer:* Makenna Fitzgerald

*Marketing Director:* Hannah Reid

*Outreach Coordinator:* Logan Faircloth

*Secretary:* Ashton Cady

*Faculty Advisor:* Prof. Melissa Will

## 2020-21 EXECUTIVE BOARD



# Year in Review

by Anna Adamsson, President

The Delta Omega chapter has had an extraordinary year. We hosted 19 events with 20 guest speakers and had over 46 hours of programming, including events, meetings, and other activities. We doubled our membership from the last academic year. In total, our organization engaged over 20 general members in leadership throughout this year from helping the National Office plan the virtual research conference to producing a first-of-its-kind hour-long political commentary show starring our own members, which we called the "Bipartisan Boiler Show".

Following our chapter's membership structure from past years, we offered both a National and Local membership to students. National Members are those that qualify for membership with the National Office. We offer Local Membership to high-achieving freshmen and sophomores. This gives our chapter the unique opportunity to grow with our members throughout their whole careers at Purdue. We've really tried to build our organization into a community, so it's not only professionally enriching but also personally fulfilling.

The coronavirus presented several challenges, but being flexible and continuously adapting our plans paid off. We invited guests and working professionals from across the country to join our weekly virtual meetings. People only needed to log onto Zoom, instead of travel across the state or country. This enabled us to have direct conversations with working professionals we otherwise could not have considered hosting. We also recorded our virtual meetings, so that members who have class or another conflict could listen back later.

The following pages are an introduction to the meetings, events, and activities the Delta Omega chapter hosted in this past academic school year.

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# FALL SEMESTER



## INDIANA STATEHOUSE INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION**

**OCTOBER 12TH 6PM EST VIA ZOOM**

**PAID INTERNSHIPS DURING INDIANA'S 122ND  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
DECEMBER 2020 - APRIL 2021**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: OCT. 31ST**

- REPUBLICAN SENATE
- DEMOCRATIC SENATE
- REPUBLICAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
- DEMOCRATIC HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
- LEGISLATION
- POLICY
- FISCAL POLICY
- LEGAL
- COMMUNICATIONS/MEDIA
- INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Presented by Pi Sigma Alpha Delta Omega



## Statehouse Internship Opportunities: Conversation with State House Staffers *By Hannah Reid, Marketing Director*

Hannah conceptualized, organized, and led the meeting with Indiana Statehouse staffers. These are her reflections:

"In Spring 2019, I was a legislative intern at the Indiana State Senate. I have realized that entering that program had been one of the best professional decisions I made throughout college. The internship provides real-world insight into legislative operations and skills-building that few undergraduate students are offered. I simply had to find a way to share this information with my chapter! Since the program representatives could not conduct their normal in-person information sessions, we invited the internship program directors via Zoom and opened our Monday meeting to any interested students. The directors talked about how and when to apply, what a day-in-the-life might look like, and answered questions about the program."

## Centennial Celebration of Women's Suffrage *By Makenna Fitzgerald, Treasurer*

Makenna organized and hosted a Women's Suffrage event. Here's how she described it:

"[Our guest] Dr. Brown covered the historical past of African American women's role in the suffragist movement. She covered topics ranging from voting rights to the nomination of Kamala Harris as the first woman of color for Vice President. The event was live streamed on the National Pi Sigma Alpha Facebook page and YouTube. The Facebook live stream garnered 744 views and the YouTube livestream had 44 views, with a combined total of 788 views. Audience members were able to request gratitude kits, including an envelope, printer paper, and a collectable women's suffrage stamp. The

materials could be used to write thank you letters to inspirational women in politics." Our chapter received a grant from Purdue to fund over 200 gratitude kits.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF  
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE VIRTUAL SERIES

**100 YEARS OF VOTING &  
THE LEGACY OF AFRICAN  
AMERICAN SUFFRAGISTS**

**Monday October 5th at 5:30pm EDT**

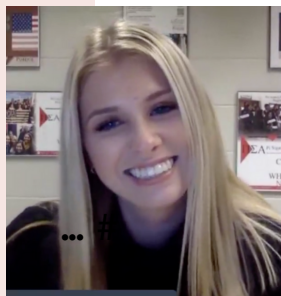
Live streamed on Pi Sigma Alpha's Facebook and YouTube



with **Dr. Nadia Brown**  
Associate Professor of Political  
Science and African American  
Studies at Purdue University



presented by Pi Sigma Alpha Delta Omega



Makenna Fitzgerald



Professor Nadia E. Brown

# FALL SEMESTER

## Voter Outreach

The Delta Omega Purdue chapter has partnered with the Purdue Votes Coalition for the past two election cycles. The Purdue Votes Coalition (PVC) is a campus wide nonpartisan initiative endorsed by the University President's Office that works together to increase student voting rates. Active members of PVC include student organizations and associations, community organizations like the League of Women Voters, and other University Departments like residential housing.

In the 2019 municipal elections, chapter members volunteered to register voters on National Voter Registration Day. In 2020, we doubled our participation on National Voter Registration Day from the last year. In the words of one of our lead volunteers Pravina, the "Purdue Votes Coalition tabled at several high traffic areas on campus to register students and answer any questions they had about voting, registering to vote, mail in ballots, etc. Many Delta Omega chapter members were a part of this effort. We even had a couple of our members step up to be table captains for the entire 6-hour long day."

In addition to this voter registration drive, our chapter decided to become more involved in driving forward the aims of the Coalition longer term. Three of our members - Anna (President), Logan (Outreach Coordinator), and Pravina (member) - began working closely with the Coalition in May 2020, shortly after our chapter's Executive Board election. These members worked on behalf of the Delta Omega chapter to create initiatives with the aim of registering all eligible student voters on Purdue's 40,000+ student campus. These three members each reached the level of Student Director of the Purdue Votes Coalition... (next page)



# FALL SEMESTER



During the summer, the student directors strategized how to systematize voter registration. They developed a model for presenting voter registration materials directly to students in their classrooms. Their research on successful methods led them to base their approach on the framework of the Ask Every Student Initiative, national and Purdue-specific data from the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement, and research that supported the effectiveness of classroom registration drives taking 10 or less minutes of class time. Pravina, Logan, and Anna reached out to the administration of each of Purdue's academic colleges to enlist their support and eventually forward their message and voluntary sign-up information to professors.

In tandem with their outreach, Logan, Pravina, and Anna developed and produced a 5-minute voter registration video (available to watch [here](#)) and a four-page resource companion guide with information specific to Purdue's campus. Asynchronous virtual classes could upload the materials online and request that their students watch it. Synchronous classes, either online or in-person, could request for a Purdue Votes Ambassador to present in real time. These Ambassadors were recruited from our chapter's membership and presented to over 150 classrooms.

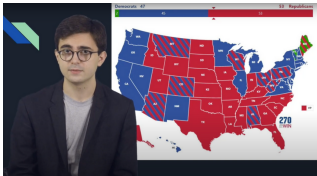
Anna also led a separate committee of 3 other Delta Omega chapter members who were interested in engaging fellow student organizations with voting information for their members. This committee created a 30-minute presentation they shared during the annual student leadership training summit in August. Student organizations that were interested in receiving more information to forward to their members could request the "Right to Vote Toolkit". The committee designed the toolkit to include the voter information video and resource companion guide referenced above, social media templates, and a sign-up for text reminders with Purdue specific voting updates. In total, Logan, Pravina, and Anna, along with additional volunteers from our chapter approached voter registration in different ways and set the groundwork that they hope PVC and our chapter will build off of to further systematize voter registration in the future.

The Delta Omega's work on civic engagement was documented in this article ([hyperlinked here](#)) written by the *Exponent* - Purdue's independent student newspaper, and also publicized by Purdue's Political Science Department ([hyperlinked here](#)).

# FALL SEMESTER

## Bipartisan Boiler Show

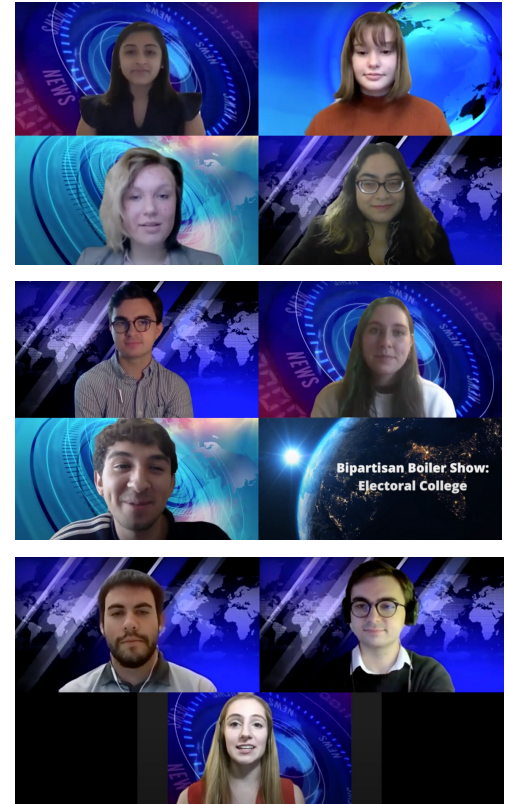
*Produced by Hannah Reid, Marketing Director  
and Anna Adamsson, President*



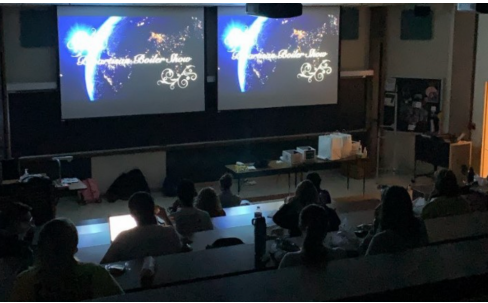
In Hannah's words: "In the midst of a pandemic, our chapter wanted to create something that resembled as closely as possible the highly successful Watch Party from the prior election. As in-person events were scarcely possible at this time, we decided to host an all-virtual election opinions show, called the Bipartisan Boiler Show [viewable on Youtube: [bit.ly/BipartisanBoilerShow2020](https://bit.ly/BipartisanBoilerShow2020)]

In preparation, the committee collected popular topics, assigned moderator and host roles, and scheduled individual-use green screen rooms for some on-campus students. Then students went to work recording their segments including campus interviews, discussion panels, and special correspondent videos. Anna and Hannah coordinated the logistics and collected the segments into a one-hour show. The program addressed the following topics: the 2020 Senate races, the Supreme Court justice vacancy, voter suppression, child marriage, and the Electoral College. The broadcast was streamed live alongside Purdue Vote Coalition's short film, My Vote Matters, live stream election night commentary, and forums for students to discuss the ongoing election.

Shyeonna Robinson was the co-host of the show (below, to the left). These are her reflections on the creation of the show: "The Bipartisan Boiler Show was very fun to create and even better to see when it was put together. I enjoyed working with [Hannah], going around and having the ability, even amongst COVID, to talk to students to see where they fall politically and to just get them talking about politics. I enjoyed working with Jarrett (below, to the right) as a co-host and the fun that we had, which even blossomed into a friendship! Overall, I think that the Bipartisan Boiler Show was very fun to create and was a great way to get more of a community-feel at Purdue!"



# FALL SEMESTER



## Political Campaigning: Conversations with the Indiana Democratic and Republican State Parties

*By Mateo Ramirez, Vice President*

Far before Election Night, our chapter held a meeting in September with guests from the Indiana Democratic and Republican State Parties. We invited them to speak to our members about campaigning, internships, and volunteer opportunities. Mateo, our Vice President, had the idea after he interned with a candidate for LA City Council during the summer of 2020.

## Election Night Watch Party

*By Logan Faircloth, Outreach Coordinator*

Pi Sigma Alpha co-hosted a hybrid Election Night Watch Party event with the Political Science Department and the Political Discourse Club. Anna hosted the virtual option on Zoom while Logan, our Outreach Coordinator, hosted the in-person event with 30 attendees. This is how Logan described the event:

"The Election Night Watch Party was a collaboration with another Purdue student organization, The Political Discourse Club. We began the night with the showing of the Bipartisan Boiler Show, a video created by a handful of students discussing various topics such as voter suppression, child marriage, and the electoral college. Following the Bipartisan Boiler show, we hosted a live commentary with the Purdue Political Science Department discussing the upcoming election with a handful of Political Science professors. Students were able to ask the professors questions and discuss how the election results might unfold.

After the commentary with the professors, we projected different sources up showing incoming election results and commentary. Students were able to eat dinner, talk with Purdue professors and watch the results together as they came in. In a high-stress election during a pandemic, political science students being able to be together, was fantastic."

## LIVE COMMENTARY AT 7PM WITH



### MELISSA WILL (moderator)

Department of Political Science, Purdue University and former analyst in the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).



### ROSALEE CLAWSON

Department of Political Science, Purdue University  
Co-author, *Public Opinion: Democratic Ideals, Democratic Practice*, CQ Press (2020) and co-author, *Legacy and Legitimacy: Black Americans and the Supreme Court*, Temple University Press (2009)



### CHRISTOPHER KULESZA

Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy



### JAMES MCCANN

Department of Political Science, Purdue University.  
Co-author of *Holding Fast: Resilience and Civic Engagement Among Latino Immigrants*, Russell Sage Foundation (2020)



### MARTIN SWEET

(Department of Political Science, Purdue University, CEO and Founder CITIZEN CONGRESS)  
author of *Merely Judgement: Ignoring, Evading, and Trumping the Supreme Court*, University of Virginia Press (2010)

# WINTER BREAK

## Book Club of "The Presidents" by Brian Lamb and Susan Swain *By Ashton Cady, Secretary*

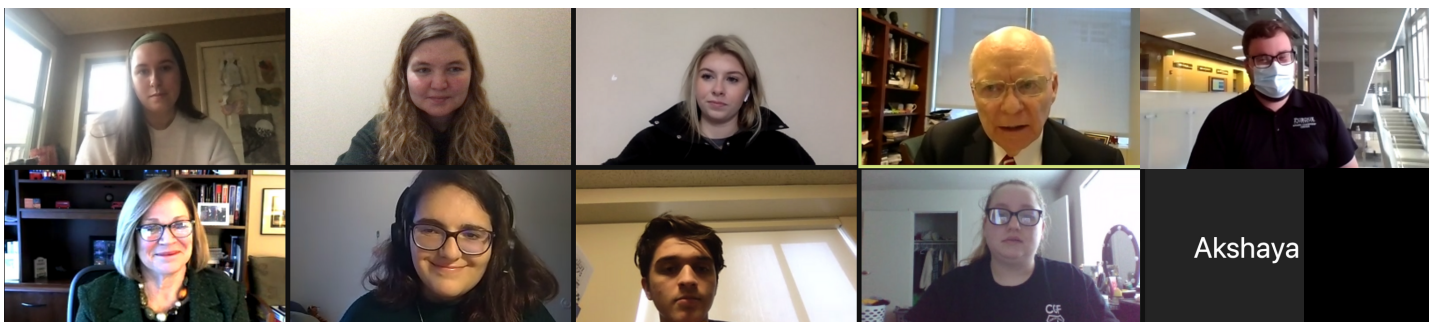
Ashton, along with Anna and Makenna, hosted this book club for our chapter. Here are her reflections:

"This year was full of many changes that took some adjustment to get used to. One of the major changes was that due to COVID we did not have any small breaks. Instead, we had a significantly longer winter break! This two month period at home created a nice break for Purdue students, but the Executive Board for our chapter still wanted to find a way to stay connected while we were spread out in the world. The idea that we decided on was a Winter Break Book Club. The book that we focused on was "The Presidents" by Brian Lamb and Susan Swain, which held small personal facts and stories

from each president along with an overall ranking of the presidents starting with George Washington and ending all the way with Barack Obama. This book was educational and informational, yet had a fun twist that made our members love the experience!

We kept in contact with students by having two online Zoom meetings with the participants, one in the middle of the book and one at the end. For the final meeting, we wanted to make it special for our members so we invited the authors Brian Lamb, founder of C-SPAN, and Susan Swain, co-CEO of C-SPAN, to speak at the meeting! The participants came up with questions to ask the authors about the book and also about their lives in general. Overall this book club was a huge success and kept us all connected while we were on break in a fun and educational way!"

We applied for and received grant money from Purdue to purchase 30 books to give to our book club members and received generous assistance from the Center for C-SPAN at Purdue in both purchasing the books at a reduced price and inviting the authors to our meeting.



# SPRING SEMESTER

## Learn about the USIP with Kat Aryaeinejad



Monday,  
March 29th  
6pm ET  
via Zoom

### RESOLVE NETWORK:

a global consortium of individual  
experts and organizations housed at  
USIP that focuses on better research,  
informed practices, and improved  
policy on violent extremism



Department of Political Science



*Authored by: Anna Adamsson*

Looking forward to this academic year with the aim to continue to grow our organization, our chapter decided to ground our intentions on three main tenets: community, networking, and opportunities. These two events we hosted in March exemplify the latter two focus areas.

## United States Institute of Peace

Our chapter's faculty advisor, Professor Melissa Will, offered to *share her network* with us from her time working in Washington D.C. That led us to inviting the U.S. Institute of Peace to present to us during a meeting. Our members were lucky to learn about the structure of USIP and *entry level job opportunities* with the Institute. Several of our members followed up with the guest speakers on LinkedIn afterwards, *expanding their own professional networks*.

USIP also invited our members to two of their monthly virtual small roundtable discussions with industry experts related to women in peacebuilding and the Afghan peace talks.

## Careers in the FBI, presented by two Special Agents

Our chapter reached out to the local Lafayette FBI office to connect our members with a career in national security.

The Special Agents shared some of their experiences, advice, and offered an internship with the local Lafayette office.

MONDAY, MARCH 15TH  
6PM ET VIA ZOOM

PRESENTED BY:



### Guest Speakers:

**FBI**  
**Special Agent**  
**Andrew Evens**  
**&**  
**Special Agent**  
**Jeremy**  
**Michaelis**



LEARN ABOUT FBI CAREERS  
AND WHAT THEY LOOK FOR  
IN RECRUITMENT



Department of Political Science

# SPRING SEMESTER



**A PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY FROM GRADUATION TO**

Coordinator of Strategic Engagement  
for the Center for Public Policy at  
the Harvard Kennedy School



**HARVARD  
Kennedy  
School**

**MON, APRIL 19TH  
6:00 PM ET VIA ZOOM**



**PURDUE  
UNIVERSITY**



**ANNA BORIS**

*Authored by: Anna Adamsson*

## Conversation with a Pi Sigma Alpha alum

Continuing *to capitalize on our own professional networks*, Anna invited a friend she made from the Spring 2018 Pi Sigma Alpha undergraduate research conference to come speak to our members about their professional journey post-graduation. Anna Boris, our guest, now works as the Coordinator of Strategic Engagement at the Harvard Kennedy School. She was gracious enough to stick around to answer questions varying from her opinions and advice on post-grad certificate programs to her favorite ice cream flavor. Anna graduated from Saint Anselm College in 2018.

**MEET THE MAYOR**

MEETING WITH  
WEST  
LAFAYETTE  
MAYOR JOHN  
DENNIS



MONDAY,  
FEBRUARY 8TH  
5-6PM EST  
VIA ZOOM



**CITY OF  
WEST LAFAYETTE**

## Meet the Mayor

Earlier in the semester, our chapter reached out to our local Mayor's office through the office's close connection with Purdue's Political Science Department. Mayor Dennis came and spoke about everything from bipartisanship and polarization, to governing during the coronavirus, to restaurant development near campus. He also shared his own personal journey to elected office and some advice for future politicians, as well as information about *summer internship opportunities* with the Mayor's office and other city and state institutions. This is the second time our chapter has invited Mayor Dennis since 2018.

# SPRING SEMESTER

## PDC Collaborations

Our chapter partnered with a fellow student organization, the Political Discourse Club (PDC), for a few events this year. Some of our members belong to both organizations, including our current Outreach Coordinator, Logan, and incoming Outreach Coordinator, Sunil, who is the current President of PDC. Logan describes PDC as "a student org dedicated to creating meaningful conversations where participants can talk about politics in a civil and enthusiastic way".

Sunil worked with the Purdue administration including President Mitch Daniels to host an event for the "Presidential Lecture Series" on behalf of PDC in collaboration with Pi Sigma Alpha, College Democrats, College Republicans, and Turning Point. Three of our members submitted questions for the guest speakers, former House Speaker Paul Ryan and former Senator Heidi Heitkamp, to answer.

For one of our Spring meetings, our chapter invited PDC conversation moderators to lead a civil discussion for us. This is how Logan, who hosted the meeting, described it:

"PDC hosts conversations where moderators help lead the conversation while also making sure no one tries to overtake the discussion. Pi Sigma Alpha members who are also PDC moderators, helped lead the conversation on Black Lives Matter and social movements.

Pi Sigma Alpha members who put into smaller breakout rooms where each could discuss their thoughts and views on the subject. Questions such as "Is the Black Lives Matter movement political? What are your thoughts on other companies, organizations, and institutions aligning themselves with BLM? Do you align yourself with BLM?" and more. Having this space for students to develop and practice their skills in having hard conversations with others who hold different opinions is vital for successful political science students."

**Pi Sigma Alpha members were asked submit questions.  
The selected students and their question topics:**



**Amanda Shie**

Protecting the institution  
of American democracy



**Pravina Ravi**

Energy regulation in Texas and  
federal funding for equitable  
green energy infrastructure



**Isheeta Khurana**

Divisions in the  
country

## PRESIDENTIAL LECTURE SERIES

AMERICAN DEMOCRACY:  
*WHERE DO WE  
GO FROM HERE?*

Wednesday, Feb 24th  
at 6pm ET



President Mitch Daniels  
will host U.S. Speaker of  
the House Paul Ryan and  
former Sen. Heidi  
Heitkamp



A collaboration led by:




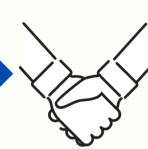

**P PURDUE**  
UNIVERSITY.

CIVIL

DEBATE

**PSA & PDC**  
Pi Sigma Alpha Political Discourse Club

**collab!**



Monday, February 15th  
6pm EST via Zoom

Debate topic:  
BLM and social movements

# SPRING SEMESTER



**ELI HEINDRICKS** senior

- House of Representatives Internship with Rep. Brooks IN-05 (2019)
- LUM Immigration Clinic Internship (2020)



**LOGAN FAIRCLOTH** sophomore

PACE, Public Advocates for Community Re-Entry



**WARISHA ASLAM** senior

Senate Internship with Senator Durbin (IL)



**LEA CEJVAN** senior

DC Internships with Sindhi Foundation and WeEmpower through the Fund for American Studies program



**ISHEETA KHURANA** junior

ACLU Missouri Internship

*Authored by: Anna Adamsson*

Our chapter hosted two meetings in the spring semester highlighting our own members' internship experiences with the intention of sharing that learned knowledge with other members. We held the first meeting the Monday after winter break, when many members were just beginning their summer internship search. We focused the conversation on how they heard about the internship, what the application process was like, and finally what advice they would give students looking for internships. In coordination with this meeting, our Marketing Director began compiling information about members' past internships. Our chapter wants to create an internship resource where members can see what internships other members have had and possibly contact those members with questions or to refer them to the role.

The second event we held was later in March. During that meeting, we had experienced members talk about digital networking and paid micro-internships at Parker Dewey (a platform to connect students with short-term jobs throughout the year). We also invited a career mentor from the Ascend Network to speak to students about their resources. Ascend is an Indiana-focused organization connecting students to job and internship opportunities in the state. Our chapter learned about Ascend from our member Logan during our first January meeting. Ascend connected her with her Summer 2020 internship.

## Looking for a summer internship?



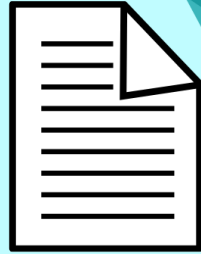
Get advice from an Ascend Network Career Mentor and seniors in the our chapter

**Monday, March 22nd  
at 6pm ET via Zoom**



# SPRING SEMESTER

## RESUME & COVER LETTER WORKSHOP



**Monday, February 1st  
6pm EST**

**Led by Professor Will  
via Zoom**

Presented by Pi Sigma Alpha Delta Omega



*Authored by: Anna Adamsson*

## Resume and Cover Letter Writing Workshop

Purdue University boasts both a campus-wide career center and a specialized career center housed within the College of Liberal Arts. Still, some of the advice that applies to other majors, is not as helpful for political scientists entering the job market. Focusing on our members and our needs, we hosted this workshop tailored specifically to political scientists on February 1st, when most of our members are actively applying to summer internships. Our chapter advisor, Prof. Melissa Will, led the workshop. She shared her previous resumes with us so that we could see how the formatting and content evolved over her career working in the Central Intelligence Agency.

This event inspired the creation of a Resume Resource Bank. Our members contribute their resumes to be offered as examples to other members creating resumes. The Resume Resource Bank is housed within our organization's shared Google Drive.

## Political Science Events



### Working for the Federal Government

The FBI and  
US State Department

A discussion about careers  
in the federal government  
with Special Agent  
Bridgette Jenkins and  
Office Management  
Specialist Jean Monfort

**Thursday, March 11th  
6:00-7:00 (ET) via Zoom**



Department of Political Science

## Political Science Department

In addition the events that our chapter organized and hosted, Purdue's Political Science Department also hosted several extraordinary events this year, which we added to our organization's calendar and shared with our members. Our chapter has always worked closely with the Department and receives support for our activities and events.

# SPRING SEMESTER

MONDAY, MARCH 1ST  
6PM ET VIA ZOOM



**Francesca McCallister**  
Administrative Assistant at the  
British Embassy in Washington D.C.

Finding a Job  
During a Pandemic

A personal alumni story



*Authored by: Hannah Reid*

## Finding a Job During a Pandemic

Listening to seasoned professionals can be very inspiring and insightful for long-term career planning. However, talking to someone who was recently in your position can offer more specific advice for marketing yourself at your professional stage and provide guidance that is in tone with the current job market.

Our chapter invited back former Delta Omega chapter President, Francesca McCallister, to speak at one of our chapter meetings about her experience navigating her professional life after Purdue. She was particularly able to reflect on the unique challenges of entering the workforce during a global pandemic. Francesca also discussed her path to obtaining her current position as an Administrative Assistant at the British Embassy in Washington D.C., emphasizing the importance of nurturing your professional network.

**Pi Sigma Alpha 2021 Research Conference**

Presenting researchers from the Delta Omega chapter



PRAVINA RAVI



PAULINA DAWIDOWSKA



RYAN WETTSHURACK

Thomas to Kavanaugh:  
Analysis of Media Coverage of  
SCOTUS Confirmation  
Hearings

Evolution of Conservative Media:  
How the Republican Party Under Newt  
Gingrich Empowered the Rise of  
Conservative Talk Radio in American  
Politics in the 1990s



## Research Conference Presentation Practice

Students invest so much time and effort in their research, and as a chapter, we wanted to invest back into our members. In support of our student researchers and their work, we set aside part of a weekly meeting to allow a few of our students to practice their presentations for the annual Pi Sigma Alpha Undergraduate Research Conference and receive feedback from our faculty advisor, Melissa Will. This also gave students who could not attend the conference the opportunity to hear the researchers' presentations.

# RESEARCH CONFERENCE



Conference Organizing Committee: Pravina, Anna, Dania, Abigael



Research Presenter, Pravina



Hamilton Trivia Hosts

The Delta Omega chapter always looks forward to the National Research Conference. This year, of course, would be different, but our members were excited to help the Conference adapt to a virtual setting. Anna worked with the National Office and two fellow chapter Presidents to brainstorm the activities for the Friday night networking event. Anna also volunteered to assemble a committee at Purdue to organize and lead the social event on Saturday. Her committee - Pravina, Dania, Abigael, and Reese - designed virtual trivia games for all conference attendees to play together. This is how Abigael describes her experience:

"The virtual trivia game was my personal favorite part of the conference, because it felt like we were in the same room as the people of the conference. It made this online event feel more real and I was glad that we were able to make people laugh and test their knowledge at the same time. The first step for us was to brainstorm the topics we wanted to cover. It was fun to put together tricky questions that we hoped would stump even our professors. The hardest part of it all as trying to think of the false answers. The Hamilton-themed trivia game was a hit and we had some wonderful music in the background provided by our DJ Dakota."

Our committee met 5 times before the conference, once with the Executive Director Sean Twombly and three times with the DJ to review ideas and test the technology. In addition to planning the trivia, the committee also organized an in-person watch party of the conference at Purdue. We projected the conference presentations on screens. An informal poll on Saturday showed that all our observers (attendees who were not presenting research) were more interested and motivated to get involved in undergraduate research after attending the conference watch party. Abigael said that attending in-person also meant she was "able to connect and meet some of our newer members" whom before we had only seen on a screen. Our chapter was proud to be represented at the conference by three research presenters - Pravina, Paulina, and Ryan.

# SPRING BANQUET AND INDUCTION CEREMONY

*Authored by: Ashton Cady, Secretary*

The Pi Sigma Alpha Spring Banquet is one of the most looked forward to events of the year and this year was no exception! Throughout the year we had very few events that were able to be in person, so we knew right away that the Spring Banquet was an event we really wanted to be in person. This process was not an easy one, but the Spring Banquet planning committee, made up of Anna, Mateo, Logan, and Ashton, was up for the challenge. After countless meetings and paperwork we finally got approval for the Spring Banquet to be held in the Purdue Memorial Union Ballroom! We also planned for the in-person event to be streamed via three cameras to a Zoom event for members who wanted to attend virtually.



The night started off with an introduction speech from our lovely President Anna that smoothly transitioned us into the night. The next section consisted of honoring the TAs and professors who our members voted had stood out during the year. This year would not have been possible without their support and leadership that was a shining light during the tough academic circumstances. There were many professor of the year nominations who were honored during the ceremony as well and our advisor Melissa Will was the professor who won the award! The night also held a keynote speech from Dr. Cherie Maestas, Purdue Political Science Department Head, who educated the crowd on some of the history of Pi Sigma Alpha at Purdue. Some of the other notable speeches were from our advisor Melissa Will and from our incoming Vice President Logan Faircloth who delivered a year in review speech that had the whole crowd both laughing and reminiscing.



# SPRING BANQUET AND INDUCTION CEREMONY



One of the main reasons for the Spring Banquet is that it is a time to recognize our new local members, whom we awarded with certificates and the new national members, who received their National Certificates and pins. The 2020-21 Banquet for the Delta Omega chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha recognized 23 new local members and 20 new national members into the organization. These new members will become and continue to be the backbone that makes the Delta Omega chapter great. While we were very excited to see these members be recognized, we also knew that

this ceremony was a time to say goodbye to our graduating seniors. There were 20 graduating seniors that we recognized at the ceremony. Every one of these members helped to make the 2020-21 year special and we will be forever grateful for the time that we could be in the organization with them and also grateful for the wisdom and friendship they gave to us throughout the years. We know that these seniors are off to do amazing things with the knowledge and backing that Pi Sigma Alpha has given to them.

The night ended with a speech by incoming President Ashton and a video message from Delta Omega recent alumni that gave our members some words of wisdom to take them into the summer. Overall, this event went on without a hitch and all of the members in attendance (both in person and online) enjoyed it immensely.



# SOCIAL EVENTS

## Scavenger Hunt and Game Night

*By Anna Adamsson, President*

Our virtual Zoom meetings did not cater themselves well to the sort of organic conversations we could have with members before and after meetings in past years. To compensate, we intentionally scheduled fun, social events for our members to get to know one another.

In the fall semester, we hosted an in-person political science themed scavenger hunt during the 3rd week of school. The three teams (pictured to the right) had fun adventuring around campus to, for example, find out on what steps VP Quayle from Indiana made a speech and then create and record their own campaign slogans. After the teams finished all the clues, they each got to submit one team photo that our organization's general membership voted to decide the favorite. Team "Lacitilop" (political spelled backwards, top pic) won!

At the beginning of the spring semester, we hosted a virtual Zoom game night. Both events gave our members a break from homework and the opportunity, especially for new members and freshmen, to get to know some other students in our community!



**Game night**

Need a break?  
Relax with fellow Pi Sig members over  
some Jackbox games!

**Monday,  
February 22  
6pm EST  
via Zoom**

# CONNECTIONS

*By Anna Adamsson, President*

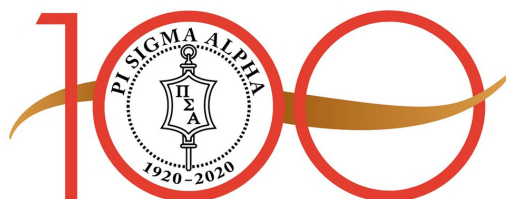
I have been in Pi Sigma Alpha first as a Local Member and now as a National Member for 4 years. Coming in as a freshman, the Delta Omega chapter provided me with a community. I met fellow political science students, heard about the upperclassmen's favorite classes, and was connected with a research opportunity during my first semester through our chapter's faculty advisor at the time. My leadership and engagement with Pi Sigma Alpha has always focused on our members and paying forward the connections I had and continue to make in this Honor Society.

Virtual meetings made creating connections and a community more difficult. That is why our chapter prioritized hosting a few in-person meetings and events (always with a virtual option) when able and under additional safety planning and approval of Purdue's Vice Provost of Student Life. Sometimes members would express how our outdoor scavenger hunt, voter registration tables, or Election Night Watch Party was the only in-person student organization interaction they had all semester. While our existing members already had built a community at Purdue and within our Honor Society, freshmen were especially in need of connection.

Focusing on our newest members, I began planning optional one-on-one intake meetings on Zoom. In these 15 minutes conversations, I would learn about the members' interests in political science, talk to them about undergraduate research opportunities, and answer any questions they have about Pi Sigma Alpha. Sometimes these conversations could stretch into almost an hour. Not only could I connect with students right away, but these chats also informed what topics our members were most interested in having covered during meetings.

I pride myself on intentionally connecting with all our members at least once this year. Besides our weekly meetings and additional conversations, we also published weekly newsletters with our organization's updates, campus news and relevant events, new internship and job postings, and other relevant opportunities.

Our chapter is proud of the connections we made this year with each other, with our professors and our academic Department, with our alumni, with other student organizations, with other chapters, and with working professionals. Moving forward, our chapter is excited to build out our connections with our alumni by creating a dedicated role on our executive board: Alumni Relations Coordinator. Together, the incoming Executive Board will continue making connections and building our community.



## *The faces from our first meeting in the fall*



## *and some of our graduates in the spring.*



We are so proud of our graduates: our two Fulbright Scholars who are heading to Turkey and Germany respectively to work on research later this year, our Truman Scholar who is starting a yearlong fellowship program, all those attending graduate school and law school, and everyone else making their way into the professional world.