



## An Open Letter to Phi Beta Delta

Dr. Astrid Sheil, Phi Beta Delta's 2015-16 President, addresses all members in her first letter to the Phi Beta Delta community.

In this issue:

- [2015-16 Phi Beta Delta President Dr. Astrid Sheil](#)
- [Mu Chapter News](#)
- [Delta Pi Chapter News](#)
- [Eta Epsilon Chapter News](#)
- [International Education](#)
- [Phi Beta Delta Publications](#)
- [Call for Book Reviews](#)



### 2015-16 Phi Beta Delta President Dr. Astrid Sheil



Dear Friends of Phi Beta Delta,

Hello! I'm Astrid Sheil, the new president of Phi Beta Delta. I am both excited and humbled to be a part of this important organization. I have 4 main goals for this year.

1. More communication – At the national headquarters, we are looking at ways to improve our communication to you and to be more accessible when you want to communicate with us. To this end we are joining the 21<sup>st</sup> century and employing more use of social media channels, like Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Of course, phones and emails are still welcome ways to stay in touch!
2. More information – We intend to do a better job of keeping members and chapter coordinators abreast of new initiatives and opportunities. In addition to the newsletter, I will be sending out a monthly blog to share with you news and important updates. In return, I am hoping that you will feel free to share with me your good news and your concerns about Phi Beta Delta.
3. Better marketing and support – At the recent national Phi Beta Delta conference hosted by California State University San Bernardino, I heard about the challenges facing individual chapters. We intend to address those challenges and concerns this year. Right now, we are in the planning stages of creating podcasts and online training materials to help you with issues, such as:
  - Fundraising and Marketing
  - Membership rejuvenation
  - Increasing the value proposition for joining Phi Beta Delta
  - Recognition
  - Scholarships
4. Reinstatement of the journal – Members of Phi Beta Delta are often the leaders at their campuses in writing scholarly articles on international education. The journal is our calling card. This year, we will re-establish the journal. More information will be forthcoming. Look for information regarding submissions.

In conclusion, Phi Beta Delta is more than a medallion and a sash. Phi Beta Delta, first and foremost, is people—faculty, students, and staffs—committed to improving and increasing awareness and support for international education. As such, we are only as strong as our individual and collective commitment to this premier honor society.

Please join me in making 2015 – 2016, the best year for every Phi Beta Delta Chapter.

With warmest regards,

Astrid Sheil, PhD

Share Tweet Forward

### Chapter News



#### Mu Chapter News, UNC Charlotte



#### Beane Honored At International Education Reception

Ms. Marian Beane, founder of the Phi Beta Mu Chapter at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, a charter member of the PBD International Honor Society in the United States, was recognized at an International Education Reception hosted by the Office of International Programs at UNC Charlotte in April. Guests at the event included former presidents of the Mu Chapter, prior recipients of the UNC Charlotte International Education Faculty Award, honorary community members previously inducted into the Mu Chapter for their contributions in international education to the greater Charlotte community, and the UNC Charlotte community.

Assistant Provost for International Programs at UNC Charlotte Joël Gallegos highlighted Beane's "unwavering dedication" to UNC Charlotte's Mu Chapter since its inception in 1987. "UNC Charlotte's charter Mu Chapter is a dynamic and important dimension of our campus' integrated internationalization efforts," said Gallegos. "Each year, our Phi Beta Delta programming engages students, faculty, and staff members along with members of our community at large. This robust activity provides opportunities for meaningful learning experiences and dialogue on our campus, resulting in recognition as the national chapter of the year."

Under Beane's leadership, the Mu Chapter was recognized as the Outstanding Regional Chapter as well as the Overall Outstanding Chapter in 1995, 2004, and 2010. Furthermore, Beane was acknowledged for her exceptional work, receiving the Edward S. Blankenship Outstanding Staff Award. As part of the 2014 nomination, interim Mu chapter coordinator and Associate Director of International Programs at UNC Charlotte Dr. Christina Sanchez commented that "Beane is a humble servant of PBD who seeks no personal accolades. She mentored and guided numerous executive officers in establishing a robust program with hallmark events that the entire campus community look forward to participating in each year".

One example of Beane's creative initiatives for promoting awareness and understanding of international education is the Student Writing Competition which was founded under her leadership. This annual competition provides a meaningful opportunity for students to articulate how their international and intercultural experiences, whether here in the U.S. or abroad, have impacted their view of the world. Original essays, short stories, or reports based on students' individual experiences are submitted into three categories: submissions from undergraduate students, graduate students, and students from the English Language Training Institute, an intensive English program at UNC Charlotte. All student contributors to the contest are recognized at the International Education Awards including the winners and honorable mentions in each category. The offices of the Chancellor and the Provost consistently support the initiative as well as College Deans, Department Chairs, and individuals from across campus.

For more information, please contact the UNC Charlotte Mu chapter at PhiBetaDelta@unc.edu or visit https://pbd.unc.edu.



#### Delta Pi Chapter News, Baker University

Baldwin City, KS



Baldwin City, Kansas — Known for being instrumental in creating a community that promotes diversity and well-being of students on the Baldwin City campus, Baker University senior Alexia Nyoni was recently presented the David Merchant International Student Award for Achievement. The award honors one international student who demonstrates exceptional accomplishments in the areas of scholarship and service.

Originally from Harare, Zimbabwe, Nyoni is a member of Baker's Delta Pi chapter of Phi

"It felt like all my hard work had finally paid off," said Nyoni, who received \$500 for the honor. "When I came to Baker, there were not that many international students. I have seen the numbers grow as we attract students from different places across the world. These students bring together a mixture of different cultures. It is great to see the diversity on campus. It provides us opportunities to learn something different, adapt and become culturally enriched."

Part of the campus community since January 2012, Nyoni had not been to the United States until she became a student at Baker. An uncle who lived in Wichita received a master's degree from Baker in the mid-1980s and recommended the university to her family. Nyoni and her parents researched Baker online and were impressed by the university's liberal arts background and academic offerings.

"I wanted to spread my wings and see other places," said Nyoni, a double major in accounting and business management.

At Baker, Nyoni helps organize social events for international students and coordinates activities for International Education Week in November. Baker is home to 20 international students, representing 13 countries.

"Her role is critical for Baker as we work to create effective community-building programming after our international student population doubled in size this fall," said Smrha, assistant dean for student engagement and success.

In addition to her role with international students, Nyoni has served as a treasurer for student senate and as a resident assistant in the residential life program. She has been a leader in the first-year orientation program, partnering with a faculty member to serve as a co-instructor and mentor for a seminar class for new students.

Nyoni, who has aspirations of becoming a certified public accountant, interned last year with the accounting and business advisory firm KPMG in Zimbabwe. She has secured an internship this summer with PricewaterhouseCoopers in St. Louis.

"Baker has prepared me well for a career in business," said Nyoni, scheduled to graduate in December.

Courtesy of Baker University Public Relations



**Eta Epsilon Chapter News, Western Illinois University**  
Macomb, IL

**WIU International Honor Society Helps  
Macomb Jr. High Celebrate International Day**

Members of the [Eta Epsilon Chapter of Phi Beta Delta](#), the honor society dedicated to recognizing scholarly achievement in international education at Western Illinois University, helped Macomb Jr. High School students celebrate the school's fourth International Day recently.

According to Dana Vizdal, assistant director for orientation and student activities in the [WIU Center for International Studies](#), every year, members of the Eta Epsilon Chapter, including student, faculty and staff volunteers, present to seventh and eighth graders there.

"Volunteers present on a specific country and share information about the country's culture," Vizdal explained. "Presenters each gave a 40-minute interactive presentation to two different groups of students. Presentations included information on a country's location, food, clothes, music, holidays, schools and more. The goal of the event is to give Macomb Jr. High students a chance to learn how cultures are different and similar to ours, but we also participate so WIU international students can see how children go to school in the U.S."

This year's presenters and the countries they talked about included:

- Osamah Al-Mohammed Baqer, student in Western's [English as a Second Language \(WESL\) Institute](#) and Hekmat B. Alhmadi, WESL student — Iraq
- Hattan Omrani, senior, [computer science](#) — Saudi Arabia
- Shyan Edwards, graduate student, [sociology](#) — Jamaica
- Emma Sage, high school exchange student — Sweden
- Alyssa Detrick, senior, [biology/Spanish](#) — Dominican Republic
- Niall Hartnett, academic advisor, [University Advising and Academic Services Center](#) — Ireland
- Ashwini Joshi, graduate student, [engineering technology leadership](#) — India
- Melaine Nsaikila, graduate student, [economics](#) — Cameroon
- Abdullah Alshajri, graduate student, [economics](#) — Saudi Arabia
- Angelo Tavares de Andrade, junior, [engineering technology](#), and Flavia Domingues, junior, [nursing](#) — Brazil

For more information, contact Dana Vizdal at (309) 298-3734 or [DM-Vizdal@wiu.edu](mailto:DM-Vizdal@wiu.edu).



Send your Chapter news and photos to the director of publications, Michael Smithee, at [ms@smitheeassociates.com](mailto:ms@smitheeassociates.com).

For example, include:  
International Education advancements  
International Education Week activities  
Induction ceremonies  
Honors and Awards

### International Education

Publications to Advance Your Knowledge  
[Institute of International Education—Home Page](#)  
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[International Research and Review](#)  
[Journal of Phi Beta Delta, Honor Society for International Scholars](#)

### PBD PUBLICATIONS



Scholars and researchers from across disciplines are invited to address issues in international education and studies.

The editors welcome papers on topics that can include, but are not limited to, our understanding of international studies, education, internationalization, globalization, teaching and learning in the context of international educational exchange and, within the university classroom, issues regarding curricular development, and other related topics.

We welcome critical, qualitative, quantitative, and social scientific perspectives. For more information and guidelines visit the *International Research and Review* at: <http://phibetadelta.org/publications.php>

### Call for Book Reviews

We are looking for members to submit reviews of books they have read. These can be scholarly non-fiction or non-fiction pertaining to cultural, intercultural and international topics.

To express your interest in either of these two activities send an email to Dr. Michael Smithee at: [ms@smitheeassociates.com](mailto:ms@smitheeassociates.com).

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