



Spring 2013

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS, CHAPTER 316

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Spring 2013 Graduates Initiated

Chapter 316 conducted its graduate student induction ceremony on Tuesday, April 9 in the McDermott Suite. PKP chapter members attended the event in full regalia as per tradition. Forty-eight graduates were inducted into the Society this academic year. Dr. Murray John Leaf, Professor of Anthropology and Political Economy in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences, was also inducted as a faculty member of the Society. Dr. Leaf gave the keynote address at the event. Other speakers included chapter president Rafael Martín, president-elect Dr. Cy Cantrell and PKP student vice-president Blair Flicker. Dr. Edward Harpham, chapter treasurer, announced each candidate by school while Mr. Martín and Dr. Wildenthal presented each inductee with their certificate, honor cord and pin. Provost and PKP member Dr. Hobson Wildenthal provided the closing remarks. Congratulations to our newest members!



Dr. Murray Leaf – Faculty Induction

The spring 2013 graduate induction ceremony included one UTD professor. Dr. Murray Leaf received his Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from Reed College before moving on to the University of Chicago, where he received a Ph.D. in Social Anthropology. He began his academic career at Pomona College and UCLA before joining UT Dallas in 1975.



As a Professor of Anthropology and Political Economy, Dr. Leaf teaches undergraduate courses on comparative religion, law and society, cultural ecology and South Asia and graduate courses on administrative ethics and socio-economic development. His monographs include *Information and Behavior in a Sikh Village: Social Organization Reconsidered*, (1972) *Song of Hope* (1984), an account of social and economic change in a Punjab village, *Pragmatism and Development: the Prospect for Pluralism in the Third World* (1998), and *Human Organizations and Social Theory* (2009).

His articles cover a wide range of topics including the meaning of marriage ceremonies, the language issue in South Asia, household economics, the relationship between irrigation and social organization, law and legal decision-making, the Sikh religion, the relationship between government centralization and the causes of violent secessionist movements, the green revolution, and the evolution of agricultural systems. Dr. Leaf has served as the Senior Social Scientist on USAID sponsored development projects in India and Bangladesh and as a reviewer for numerous agencies and journals.

Dr. Leaf has an impressive scholarly record and has been recognized by his peers as a fellow of both the American Anthropological Association and the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland. Dr. Leaf also has an extensive record of service to this university. He has served as a member of the Academic Senate continuously since his arrival in 1975, including several terms as Speaker. He has also been a member of the UT System Faculty Advisory Council, providing counsel and insight to UT System Administration and Regents, since 2001, and currently serves as its Chair. His committee service is too voluminous to comprehensively list, but includes membership on the Committee on Qualifications of Academic Personnel, the Library Committee, the Committee on Facilities, and the UT Dallas Presidential Search Committee. Dr. Leaf's record of scholarship and service make him an exemplar of what Phi Kappa Phi seeks to honor.

PKP Chapter 316 General Meeting

Chapter 316 conducted a spring General Meeting on March 5. Several events were discussed during the meeting including the graduate student and new faculty induction scheduled for April 9 in the McDermott Suite. The Honors Convocation, which was scheduled for May 16, was also discussed. Chapter 316 sponsored the Convocation speaker: Stacey Boland, a UTD alumni and a systems engineer at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. Another Chapter 316-sponsored event planned for fall 2013 is a luncheon with the president, a new event that will hopefully become another regular chapter activity. UTD's president Dr. David Daniel is scheduled to speak about the Deepwater Horizon disaster which took place in 2010. Daniel was appointed by the National Academy of Engineering and the National Research Council to a committee investigating the Deepwater Horizon explosion and oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. The luncheon will be open to PKP members only.

Mr. Martín announced that Dr. Cyrus Cantrell, professor of electrical engineering and Senior Associate Dean of Academic Affairs in the Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science, had accepted the position of president-elect for Chapter 316. He will replace Mr. Martín when the president's term has expired.

PKP scholarship opportunities were discussed with special emphasis on the PKP Fellowship. Each year, three \$15,000 and fifty \$5,000 awards were offered nationally.

Last year, one of UTD's students won a \$5,000 award. Other scholarships included the Study Abroad and the UTD Travel Grant. The Study Abroad grants are \$500 awards. The UTD Travel Grant awards five PKP members and is open to undergraduates, graduates and alumni. The UTD Travel Grant offsets costs for travel associated with conferences, field trips, research and other academic projects.

The next order of business was the selection of new student vice presidents. As per chapter and national bylaws, Chapter 316 is required to have at least two student vice presidents who must serve at least one year. Last year, the chapter's first three student vice presidents were elected: Blair Flicker, Chuck Cage and Evan Carr. This year, Blair Flicker continues to serve as a student vice president and we have two open positions. Student vice presidents can serve an important role in helping to build interest in Phi Kappa Phi among the other students. Since the chapter is new, student vice presidents have an opportunity to build a legacy for future student leaders and add to the academic culture of the campus. They also provide support for the executive board and help drive the mission of the chapter. The nominees were Matthew Krenik, a senior and Electrical Engineering major; Carter Plotkin, a senior and Political Science major and Kartika Samy, a graduate student in Information Technology and Management. All three nominees were approved by general vote with no objections.

UTD Student Wins Prestigious Fellowship



Dina Shahrokhi has won the Marcus L Urann Fellowship, a \$15,000 fellowship granted to only six students nationally each year. Shahrokhi graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in political science from the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences. At UT Dallas, she was a McDermott Scholar. She has been involved in Student Government, where she was the Senator of the Year, as well as Student Government Vice President for 2010-11. Shahrokhi started an organization called SPEAK (Students for Political Education, Action and Knowledge) to increase political awareness and participation among the University community via voter registration drives and other activities.

She is interested in conflict resolution and its application in Middle Eastern politics, and has studied Arabic. She has traveled to Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Israel, the West Bank, and the United Arab Emirates. She also received a Critical Language Scholarship from the State Department during summer 2009 to study Arabic in Morocco. Shahrokhi was chosen as a Bill Archer Fellow in fall 2009, where she spent a semester living in Washington, D.C. working at the Middle East Institute. After graduation, she hopes to spend a year abroad mastering the Arabic language before applying to work for the State Department. The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi currently awards fifty-one Fellowships of \$5,000 each and six at \$15,000 each to members entering the first year of graduate or professional study. Each Phi Kappa Phi chapter may select one candidate from among its local applicants to compete for the Society-wide awards.

UT Dallas Academic Travel Grant Winners for Spring 2013

Each academic year Chapter 316 awards ten grants of \$500 each, five per semester for the Fall and Spring. The PKP at UT Dallas Academic Travel Grant is designed to help supplement travel expenses incurred for academic research or participation at academic conferences and meetings. Each \$500 grant can be used to offset expenses of air travel, food and lodging, car rental and gas, and/or conference fees. Eligibility for application to the UT Dallas Academic Travel Grant is limited to undergraduate, graduate, and alumni members, in good standing, of the UT Dallas chapter of PKP. All PKP applicants must be current on their local and national dues at the time of award and at the time they request reimbursement for their travel-related expenses. Any PKP members who have won a Travel Grant in the past will be ineligible for this competition.

This spring, the winners of the Phi Kappa Phi-UTD Chapter Travel Grant were Marcel Carcea, Matthew Krenik, Amanda Loveless, Arezoo Modiri, and Grace Keller Scotch.