



Spring 2012

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS, CHAPTER 316

CONTACTS

Chapter President

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[Boots](#)

President-Elect

[Mr. Rafael O. Martín](#)

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[Dr. Mary Jo Venetis](#)

PKP ELECTS STUDENT VICE PRESIDENTS

When Chapter 316 met on March 19, chapter members elected three student vice presidents. Student vice presidents represent the student voice and opinion of the student members of Phi Kappa Phi, promote Phi Kappa Phi on campus to other students, participate in chapter meetings, and assist other officers as needed. Each student vice president serves a one-year term.



Chuck Cage is currently a junior pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Emerging Media Arts and Communication, with a focus on the function of online communities. He maintains a 4.0 GPA in his coursework. Last semester he co-authored a paper with his academic advisor, Dr. Cindy Shen, titled "Exodus to the Real World? Assessing the Impact of Offline Meetups on Community

Participation and Social Capital" which will be presented at the 2012 International Communications Association conference this May and is currently under consideration for publication with the *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication*. Cage and Shen were the first to structurally confirm a shift from bonding to bridging social capital in online communities after offline meetups, which could potentially affect long-term online leadership and participation. Cage is currently working on a second paper analyzing the same data to examine different types of participation and their effects on the health and longevity of online communities. Cage is a professional software developer and project manager and has run his own small consulting business since 2002. He is a freelance writer for *Popular Science*, *Wired*, and other publications. In 2006, he launched a niche blog about tools, Toolmonger.com, which has over 200,000 unique visitors monthly and has now become a second business.

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PKP ELECTS STUDENT VICE PRESIDENTS, continued

For fun he also founded a science fiction podcast in 2006, recording over 300 episodes to date with guests ranging from actors and writers to Ann Druyan and Nick Sagan. This group recently held their fourth annual international meetup where 54 podcast listeners traveled to Plano, Texas from all over the world to attend a live podcast recording. <http://chuckcage.com/about-me/>

Evan Carr moved to Dallas in 2008 and completed his Associate of Arts at Richland College in spring 2010. Maintaining a 4.0 GPA, he will complete his Bachelors of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies in spring 2012 and has been accepted into the Masters of Public Policy Program in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences. He is currently the Chaplain and a Founding Father of the Pi Kappa Phi social fraternity. Evan has an extensive career in sales and presently works as a telemarketer. He also is a Certified Personal Trainer working at the UT Dallas Activity Center. In his free time, Evan enjoys reading, snowboarding, tennis and fitness in general.



Blair Flicker is an MBA student at the Jindal School of Management. Upon graduating in May 2012, he intends to continue his studies at the Jindal School as a doctoral student in the area of Operations Management. His research interests include human decision making, global supply chains, and strategic operations management. Blair received a Bachelor's of Science in Computer Science with Honors and Human Factors Psychology with Distinction from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Blair is the Information Services Coordinator in the Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President at The University of Texas at Dallas. His main roles include gathering

and analyzing data to provide the Provost with the information necessary to make strategic decisions and helping the Provost with special projects as they arise. Blair's previous work experience includes four years at the UTD Center for Vital Longevity. Blair managed the design, build out, and startup of a 40,000 square foot facility, managed a multi-million dollar research project funded by the National Institute on Aging, planned two invited research conferences, and oversaw special events including a visit from Governor Perry. When he left the Center for Vital Longevity, Blair was the Associate Director of Operations. During his studies at The University of Texas at Dallas, Blair has received several awards including the Terry and Claire Rock Entrepreneurship Scholarship, the Dean's Excellence Award three times, and was a finalist for the \$10,000 Texas Business Hall of Fame Scholarship.

General Chapter meeting was held on Monday, March 19. The official minutes of the meeting are located online at www.utdallas.edu/phikappaphi/news

Phi Kappa Phi Chapter 316 Offers Academic Travel Grant

The University of Texas at Dallas chapter of Phi Kappa Phi is happy to announce the inauguration of a chapter-specific grant for academic and research-related travel. Each academic year our chapter will award ten grants of \$500 each, or a total of five per semester (fall and spring). Each semester, grants will be awarded to four undergraduate and one graduate PKP student members. 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. Applicants chosen for the spring 2012 award must use their funds no later than December 31, 2012.

Eligibility for application to the UT Dallas Academic Travel Grant is limited to undergraduate and graduate student members, in good standing, of the UT Dallas chapter of PKP. All PKP student 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. An application packet should contain the following material to be considered:

- Curriculum vita of the student with full contact information, two pages or less
- Current student transcript of academic work done at UT Dallas (may use unofficial transcript)
- 500 word essay explaining the purpose of the travel, how travel funds will be used, and the meaning of the travel for the applicant's broader research agenda.
- One letter of recommendation by a UT Dallas faculty member, which should include an explanation of significance of the applicant's travel plans. The letter must be submitted in a signed sealed envelope, or emailed by the faculty member directly to PKP at UT Dallas to the address below.

Each complete packet will be reviewed by a committee of seven PKP faculty members, whereby each applicant shall be evaluated on their record of academic success and the significance of the travel project toward their future academic achievement. For questions regarding the UTD Travel Grant, please contact Dr. Douglas C. Dow, VP for PKP Scholarships and Awards at (972) 883-4934 or via email dougdown@utdallas.edu.

PKP Member Benefits

Active membership with Phi Kappa Phi provides additional benefits and discounts through PKP's partners. These discounts include up to 30% discount on [Dell](#) products, up to a 20% discount from [Apple](#), an 8% monthly service discount on qualifying voice and data plans with [AT&T Wireless](#), up to 8% for qualifying members from [GEICO](#), a \$150 discount on [The Princeton Review](#) classroom or online prep for standardized tests like the GMAT or GRE, a \$300 discount on the [Becker Professional Education's](#) CPA course, special discounts and services on car rentals from [Avis](#), [Budget Car Rental](#), [Enterprise Rent-A-Car](#) and [National Car Rental](#), 20% off membership in [LifeLock](#), [Bank of America](#) credit card options, short term medical, term-life and other insurance benefits from [Marsh](#), a 13% discount on monthly service charges, free phones, waived activation fees and more from [T-Mobile](#), a 15% discount from [Budget Truck Rental](#), special access to [Beyond Credentials](#), a career resource, 10-20% with the [Exclusive Worldwide Hotel Discount Program](#), and up to 20% on [Lenovo](#) PC products.

2012 Scholarship Winners

Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship Grant

Emily Lichtenheld, our chapter's selected nominee for the PKP Fellowship, has been awarded one of the \$5000 national fellowship awards. Fifty-one of the \$5000-level fellowships are awarded nationally to members entering their first year of graduate or professional. Dr. Boots announced the news to the assembled audience at the Honors Convocation.

UTD Phi Kappa Phi Travel Grant

UTD's Chapter 316 established a local PKP travel grant this year. One graduate award and four undergraduate awards were available to students seeking to offset travel expenses incurred in the pursuit of academic or intellectual activities. Each grant was worth \$500. The graduate winner was Tao Li. The four undergraduate recipients were Stevin George, Martin Huynh, Emily Lichtenheld, and Angela Johnston.

Next year, Chapter 316 will conduct both fall and spring competitions awarding five travel grants per semester to two graduate students and eight undergraduate students.

For more information about these and other scholarship opportunities, go to our website at www.utdallas.edu/phikappaphi/awards. Congratulations to all of our winners. We wish them the best of luck in their future studies.

The 2012 Biennial Convention



According to PKP Society bylaws, each chapter must designate an official delegate to vote on behalf of the chapter at the Biennial Convention. The appropriate delegate will be a chapter leader during the 2012-13 academic year and will be available to implement the ideas learned at Convention. The executive committee of Chapter 316 will head to St. Louis for their first biennial conference in our chapter's history.

Recent changes in bylaws have made it possible for all active Phi Kappa Phi members to take part in the governance of the Society. Active members can nominate candidates from the Society's ranks to serve two-year terms as President-Elect, VP for Finance, VP for Marketing and Member Benefits, VP for Fellowships and Awards, and two Vice Presidents at Large. Bylaw changes will be reviewed and voted by each chapter's official delegate. Fellowship winners, chapters of merit and chapters of distinction will also be announced.