



Fall 2014

# THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS, CHAPTER 316

## CONTACTS

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## University 'Taps' Top Students for Phi Kappa Phi Membership



Wearing full academic regalia, UT Dallas President David E. Daniel and Associate Vice President for Research Rafael Martín, the chapter president, participated in a tradition known as “tapping,” or inviting students for membership in Phi Kappa Phi. The tapping occurred September 15-16. Faculty and administrators visited several classrooms to “tap” or invite some of the 184 juniors and 264 seniors on their list of candidates; others were invited by email. Those who decide to join will be honored at a reception in November. Graduate students will be invited during the spring term.

Having a Phi Kappa Phi chapter is part of UT Dallas’ effort to highlight academic achievement and continue its drive toward becoming a Tier One research university. The UT Dallas chapter has 380 active members this year. Since March 2011, the chapter has inducted 46 faculty and staff, 583 students, 72 alumni and two honorary lifetime members.

## UTD Student Wins PKP Fellowship



Kayla Klein, a spring 2014 graduate with degrees in neuroscience and biology, has been recognized with a \$5,000 Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship. While she pursues her medical degree, Klein will also work toward a master's degree at the University of Michigan, School of Public Health. Her goal is to become a pediatrician and a public health advocate.

Klein had conducted undergraduate research at UTD's Think Lab, which is headed by Dr. Candice Mills, associate professor of psychology. Klein's work in the lab included being an interviewer, puppeteer, vocabulary tester, and facilitator between parents and children completing tasks together. Her honors thesis project received an Undergraduate Research Scholar Award and will be submitted for

publication. Klein was also the recipient of an Archer Fellowship, which enabled her to spend a semester as an intern at First Focus, a children's advocacy group in Washington, D.C., where she studied health care legislation and policies affecting children.

For the third year in a row, a student from UTD Chapter 316 has received a fellowship from the national honor society. The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi 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 chapter is allowed to nominate only one candidate per year. Last year, Dina Shahrokhi won the Marcus L. Urann fellowship of \$15,000. In 2012, Emily Lichtenheld received a \$5,000 fellowship.

## UTD Students Earn More Awards

Two more UTD Students have earned Phi Kappa Phi awards. The 2014 winner of the Study Abroad Grant is Marisa Campaign, a biology major. Only fifty \$1,000 study abroad grants are awarded nationally each year. The 2014 winner of the Love of Learning Grant is Husain Mustafa Mogri, who graduated this spring with a bachelor of science in biology, summa cum laude. One hundred sixty Love of Learning awards, at \$500 each, are distributed each year.

## TRUNK OR TREAT!

As part of a community service event, Phi Kappa Phi Chapter 316 sponsored a trunk filled at the UTD Trunk-or-Treat. This annual event, held from 6-8pm on Halloween night, provides local children with a safe alternative to trick-or-treating. Phi Kappa Phi President Rafael Martin and Secretary Blair Flicker manned the trunk. The chapter's treats were children's books to help foster the love of learning among local children along with some candy as well. The event took place in Lot T by Residence Hall Northwest. Chapter 316 provided over 200 books to give out to children as well as sweet treats. However, the neighborhood children were more interested in the books than the candy, and those books were gone in about ten minutes! This Love of Learning event was considered such a success, the chapter plans to participate next year... and bring more books!



## FALL UNDERGRADUATE INDUCTION

Chapter 316 conducted its undergraduate student induction ceremony on Thursday, November 6 in the Galaxy Rooms of the Student Union. PKP chapter members attended the event in full regalia as per tradition. One hundred and thirty-two juniors and seniors were inducted into the Society.

Dr. Bruce Gnade, Vice President for Research and chapter member, explained the selection of criteria for invitation. Dr. Walter Voit, Assistant Professor of Material Science Engineering and PKP member, gave the keynote address. Other speakers included chapter president Rafael Martín and chapter secretary Blair Flicker. Dr. Douglas Dow, PKP vice president of scholarships and awards, announced each candidate by school while Mr. Martín and Dr. Wildenthal presented each inductee with their certificate, honor cord and pin. UTD Provost and PKP member Dr. Hobson Wildenthal provided the closing remarks.





# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FALL UNDERGRADUATE INDUCTION CEREMONY



## CHAPTER 316 HOLDS SECOND ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Phi Kappa Phi Chapter 316 held its second annual luncheon on Tuesday, November 18 in the Faculty/Staff Dining Hall in the Student Union. The keynote speaker was Dr. James Blanchard, Executive Director of Comparative Medicine and Head of the Clinical and Research Medicine unit at Tulane National Primate Research Center at Tulane University. Dr. Blanchard's speech, entitled "Testing Disaster Plans: Preparations, Successes, and Challenges Associated with Hurricane Katrina" delved into the university response to Hurricane Katrina, how the disaster directly impacted his research team, and how these responses can offer insight into disaster planning for universities.

Last year's event, featuring Dr. David Daniel's engaging and detailed account of the Deep Water Horizon disaster, had been a great success thanks to strong faculty and staff presence. These events are held once a year and are for the Phi Kappa Phi membership or by invitation only.

