

A Brief History

Alpha Lambda Delta was founded in 1924 by the Dean of Women, Maria Leonard at the University of Illinois to recognize academic excellence among freshmen women. One year before, Dean Thomas Arkle Clark had founded Phi Eta Sigma, an honor society to recognize academic excellence among freshmen men. Both groups operated as single sex organizations until the mid-70s when both became co-educational in response to Title IX.

At the first meeting of the chapter, Florence Finn, president of the society, presented a passage from Plato's Republic in which Socrates asked the question, "Will they hold torches and pass them to one another...?" This idea, together with the symbol of a candle and the concept of sharing the love of learning with others, caught the imagination of the charter members.

The honor society soon became a national organization through the chartering of chapters at Purdue University in 1926, at DePauw University in 1927, at the University of Michigan in 1927, and at the University of Oklahoma in 1929. The first national convention was held in 1930 on the campus of the University of Illinois. Conventions were suspended during the depression years because of travel expenses. The third convention was held in 1938 at the University of Michigan. A decision was made at that convention to suspend holding a national convention and to invest those funds into establishing a graduate fellowship fund. The first fellowship was awarded to Louise Houssiere for graduate study at MIT in 1940.

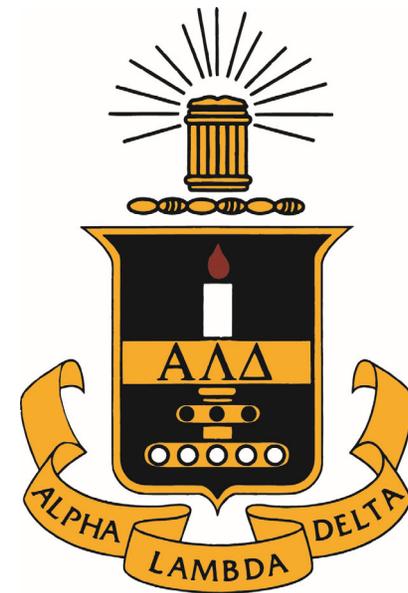
The Association of College Honor Societies was organized in 1925 to consider matters of mutual concern to member organizations; Alpha Lambda Delta has been active in the Association since its admission to membership in 1939. In 1976, in response to Title IX, the National Council voted for the Society to be co-educational. In 1981, the first two male members of the National Council were installed.

Alpha Lambda Delta has continued to be innovative and responsive in recognizing academic excellence by providing Senior Certificates and the Maria Leonard Senior Book since 1939, offering national leadership conferences since 1978, recognizing outstanding chapters with the Order of the Torch Award since 1989, recognizing an Outstanding Advisor of the Year since 1990, and taking advantage of technology by posting a national web site in January of 1997.

Alpha Lambda Delta has continued to celebrate academic excellence among first year students and has grown to over 280 chapters and has initiated over 1 million students. The National Council, which governs the organization, has prudently invested the resources and gifts from local chapters, national council members, former fellowship recipients, and friends of the Society over the years so that the Perpetual Fellowship Fund now exceeds \$4 million and can provide income to support at least 37 undergraduate scholarships and 26 graduate fellowships ranging from \$3000 to \$6500. In addition, Alpha Lambda Delta offers the Stemler Study-Abroad Scholarship, supporting up to 20 students who wish to study abroad.

Governors State University

Alpha Lambda Delta National Honor Society for First-Year Success



Chapter Installation Ceremony
Wednesday, November 14, 2018

Names of Inductees:

Matthew Alborn
Nicole Elizabeth Ames
Charles John Bunting
Mireli Cortez
Rachel Anne Distor
Brianna Garza
Savannah J. Grutzius
Maira Gutierrez
Erika Ann Betlene Halverson
Isabella Hollingsworth
Promise C. Jackson
James R. Johnson
Raven Breanna Kern
Elizabeth Koontz
Eunis Lukose
Kyle Meyers
Glen M. Reno
Delta Ross
Cariesha C. Singleton
Hayley Raye Smith
Diamond A. Waites
Kayla Warner
Honorary Members:
Hannah Cave
Amy Comparon
Juan Gutierrez
Dr. Elaine Maimon
Dr. David Rhea
Corey Williams

Program

Welcome

Installation Ceremony

Induction of Charter Members

Initiation of Honorary Members

Closing Remarks

Alpha Lambda Delta Pledge

I accept membership . . .

Into National Alpha Lambda Delta . . .

Understanding that in doing so . . .

I assume the responsibility. . .

Of continuing to maintain . . .

Its standards of service . . .

Of diligence....

And of integrity.

I pledge to promote high scholarship. . .

And to use my education . . .

For the benefit of my community . . .

My nation . . .

And the world in which we live.