

Alpha Mu Gamma Newsletter

*National Collegiate Foreign Language
Honor Society
Established 1931
Los Angeles City College*

**EIKO CHATEL, NATIONAL EXECUTIVE SECRETARY & EDITOR
HISHAM MALEK, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

SPRING 2014

National President Message

Greetings Alpha Mu Gamma Members!

I hope this spring newsletter finds you in good health. I am sure all of you are busy wrapping up the academic year and making plans for the summer.

We are happy to be sharing with you our Spring 2013 Newsletter that contains exciting information. Many of you forwarded your chapter's reports detailing the wonderful events that your chapter held in March to commemorate National Foreign Language Week. As is customary, we are including in the spring newsletter those reports to inspire you with new ideas for next year. Although AMG national did not receive a Presidential Proclamation for National Foreign Language Week, we did receive Proclamations from the Governors of Illinois, and Massachusetts.

Congratulations to Katelyn Lyman, our first winner of the newly established National Foreign Language Week poster contest. Katelyn is a Spanish student at Elmhurst College and the student President of Theta Upsilon Chapter. Her winning design can be viewed on our web site.

We are still seeking a Chapter that may be interested in hosting our national convention in the fall of 2015. If you would like to explore this possibility please let us know. I would be happy to share with you my experience and insight preparing for the National Conference. We are particularly interested in celebrating the event at a Southern State, since it has been a long time since we have met in this geographical area.

Best wishes to all at the closure of this academic year. Have a wonderful and productive summer. Continue your search with eyes aloft.

Sincerely,

Beatriz Gómez Acuña, Ph.D
Associate Professor of Spanish
AMG National President, Theta Upsilon Chapter
bgomez@elmhurst.edu



**From the desk of the National Executive Secretary
and the Advisor of Alpha Chapter**

Dear colleagues and students,

It is time again to send a greeting from the Headquarters at LACC.

The warm weather has finally arrived in California and we are looking forward to our annual Foreign Language Day celebration on April 28 here at LACC. We are going through many building renovations and it was rather difficult to secure the large room for this event. I hope to hear from all of you about your exciting Foreign Language Day celebration hopefully with many photographs! I would also like to hear about many other chapter activities as well.

Once again, we are starting to plan for the next bi-annual Alpha Mu Gamma National Convention. The last one, the 34th Convention, was held at Elmhurst College on Sept. 26-28, 2013. If any of you wish to host this exciting convention, please let our President know or contact the National Headquarters.

Please keep sending chapter updates and any other exciting news to us!

Wishing you all a good summer break.

Sincerely yours,

Eiko Kitajima Chatel
Los Angeles City College



**Scholarship Winners
2014-2015**

The National Office would like to congratulate the following members for being chosen for Alpha Mu Gamma's scholarships. We wish them the best of success in their academic endeavor. At the same time we urge all those who applied but were not successful not to give up but to try again for the 2015-2016 scholarships.

On a side note, we continue to notice the limited number of applicants. We do not know the reason for this! Are the chapters advisors not publicizing and bringing the scholarships to the attention of AMG members at their institutions? Or are people just not taking advantage of the opportunity??

1) For the \$1,000 Goddard, Indovina & Krakowski Scholarships:

Tiesha Nicole Davis	Epsilon Chi chapter	Oklahoma City University
Layne Onks	Iota Theta chapter	Anderson University
Alexandra Coffey	Iota Theta chapter	Anderson University

2) For the \$500 James Fonseca Scholarship:

Claire Csenge	Eta Pi chapter	Fairfield University
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3) For the \$500 Sister Eloise-Thérèse Scholarship:

Rebekah Hodge	Iota Upsilon	West Virginia State University
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Message from the Administrative Assistant

The Plastic membership ID cards:

In spite of the detailed explanations that we have noted in every issue of the Newsletter, we continue to have chapters asking why they did not receive these cards with their order!

Here we go again:

The embossing/printing of the cards with the members' names is done in Florida by a printer who holds a stock of our "virgin" cards. The process is the following:

- 1 - Once we receive the names of the candidates from the individual chapter, we transfer them, electronically, to the printer.
- 2 - The printer normally takes around 3 weeks before mailing the embossed cards back to us.
- 3 - Once we receive them, we mail them, in turn, to the concerned chapter on the same day or following day.

To expedite the whole process we have asked chapters to e-mail the names of the candidates to us, once they are certain. That way the process is shortened somewhat.

In only **very, very** few cases do we receive the embossed cards in time for them to be sent with the order for certificates and other material. So please be patient. The cards will eventually be sent to you.

Change of faculty chapter advisor:

We continue to receive Orders from chapters that are signed by a person whose name is not on our records as being a chapter advisor. After inquiring by e-mail about that person, we are informed that the person is the new advisor of the chapter.

In order to facilitate the updating of our records, printing mailing labels, changing the Rolodex cards etc., **we strongly urge and beg that a retiring or a vacating advisor inform us by e-mail of this fact and of the name (and e-mail address) of the replacement/new advisor.** That way we can undertake the necessary steps to amend all our records and not wait until the fact appears on the Order Form.

We have to acknowledge that some advisors have done so, which we do appreciate.

The Order Form:

We ask advisors to use the updated Order Form ... the one that states: "Price effective 2014 until further notice".

As many of you have noticed S&H prices have not changed over the last few years, in spite of changes in the U.S. postage rates.

Contacting the National Office:

We urge all chapter advisors or their assistants/secretaries, who have an inquiry or a question, to send it via e-mail it instead of calling and leaving a message on the answering machine. By doing this, I can provide an immediate answer even when I am not in the office.

Honor Cords

Please note that due to the increase in the postal rates, the price for ordering an Honor Cord by itself has gone up to \$7, from the previous \$6.

Individual Ordering

Any student wishing to order an Honor Cord, should simply send us a letter indicating his order, his mailing address and a money order for \$7, which includes S&H by 1st class mail.

AMG BANNERS

The National Office would like to remind chapters that they can order AMG banners. The banner is 4ft. x 3ft. and it is made of tough plastic with grommets for hanging. The banner is durable and, with care, should last for years. It can be used for all type of chapter activities and other occasions, indoors and outdoors. The banner is bright yellow in color and the lettering and logo are in black. The banner has a black border running all along the outside. The cost per banner is \$85, which includes shipping & handling.

At present we have three banners in stock. If more are needed, we can order them as required. The turn-around time is about 2 weeks.



AMG TOTE BAGS

“The National Office has ordered 50 Tote Bags, as per image, made of sturdy cloth material. If there is a demand for it, we will place further orders. The price per bag is \$10, which include S&H.”

National Foreign Language Week 2014

2014 National Foreign Language Week and Gubernatorial proclamations:

Although Alpha Mu Gamma National had requested that Regional Vice Presidents approach their respective governors soliciting a proclamation in celebration of National Foreign Language Week March 3-9, 2014, we only received two. Prof. Angela Tauro, the Northeast Regional Vice President, requested proclamations from all governors in New England, but only received one from Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick. Another proclamation came from the Governor of Illinois, but a copy of the document has not yet been provided to AMG National

Despite requesting a proclamation from President Obama, we once again did not receive one.

It is disappointing that some Regional Vice Presidents did not contact the governors of the states in their regions. Others did make requests, but either did not receive a response, or were told that financial constraints were the reason that no proclamations were sent.

Perhaps we will receive more proclamations next year!



Peekskill High School in Peekskill, New York, sent us the following information highlighting its activities in celebration of National Foreign Language Week. We thought it would be of interest to our members!

**Celebrating National Foreign Language Week
at
Peekskill High School
In Peekskill, New York**



¡Es la Semana Nacional de Idiomas Extranjeras!

The Foreign Language Department here at PHS conducted their 9th annual National Foreign Language Week Bash on March 2, 2014! The week-long event included the Flags Around the World decorated hallway, foreign films on Tuesday and Wednesday, a food festival, a dance workshop, readings and writings in other languages, poems written by students and reports by students on countries around the world!

The schedule of events for the week included:

- Tuesday: Movie presentation “Bride and Prejudice” 2:45 in the auditorium
- Wednesday: Movie presentation “Life is Beautiful” 2:45 in the auditorium
- Thursday: Food Festival with dishes from around the world 2:45 in the cafeteria (all students were welcome)
- Friday: Dance Workshop in the cafeteria 2:45

NFLW Poster Competition

As a result of our appeal for the submission of design suggestions by students for the 2015 NFLW poster, we were pleasantly surprised with the number of submissions received.

A Committee was set up to vet the process of selecting the winning design. The winning submission was sent by **Katelyn Lyman**, a student at Elmhurst College.

The 2015 poster can be viewed in this page and also on our web site.

As is the practice, one copy of the NFLW poster will be mailed out, free of charge, to all chapters around the end of September. Any chapter that would like to obtain an additional poster can do so by paying \$4 for S&H. costs.

We encourage members to submit their designs for the 2016 NFLW poster. A notice concerning this can be found on the next page of this Newsletter.



NATIONAL FOREIGN LANGUAGE WEEK

"National Foreign Language Week" March 9-15, 2015
is a registered name by Alpha Mu Gamma,
the National Collegiate Foreign Language Honor Society.
National headquarters at Los Angeles City College
Phone/Fax: (323) 664-9752
E-mail: amgnet@lacitycollege.edu
www.lacitycollege.edu/academic/honor/amgnflw.html
Original Submitted by Katelyn Lyman, student at Elmhurst College



The National Foreign Language Honor Society

Announces

The 2016 National Foreign Language Week

POSTER CONTEST

Your design could be chosen for the 2016 poster!

The winner will be awarded a prize of \$100 and a complimentary copy of the published poster!

Imagine seeing your poster being displayed in high schools and colleges throughout the USA!

Here are the rules for the contest:

- Choose a theme
- Create a concept of the design.
- Do not include pictures of real people!
- Submit designs in one of the following formats:
 - >Adobe Photoshop format
 - >jpeg
 - >tif
- Email your poster design to:
amgnat@lacitycollege.edu

Due date for submissions:
February 15, 2015



You may view past NFLW Posters for ideas on content and layout at:
<http://lacitycollege.edu/academic/honor/amg/posters.html>

The Alpha Mu Gamma National Office reserves all rights to the chosen design, including modification of the content. The winner of the contest will receive an acknowledgment in the National Alpha Mu Gamma Newsletter and also on the poster.

Alpha Mu Gamma 35th Biennial National Convention

As most of you must be aware our 35th biennial National Convention is scheduled to be held during the year 2015. The last Convention, the 34th, was held at Elmhurst College in Illinois during the month of September.

We therefore ask all chapters interested in hosting this Convention to let us know. In this regard we strongly urge chapters in the Southern parts of the U.S. to do so as we have not held a National Convention there for more than twenty years.

It is up to chapters to decide on the month and days of the Convention keeping in mind the academic calendar.

Please contact the National Office and the National President for further clarification on this subject.

Chapter Reports

Beta Beta chapter at Wayland Baptist University in Plainview, Texas, initiated 8 new members and sent us the following report: “**Food Drive** – Non-perishable food is collected then the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, food is sorted and packed for individual families. The students then go and deliver the food. Money is collected as well to provide gifts cards to local grocery store to purchase a turkey. Students gather and deliver the food.

Homecoming Event – Partnered with the English honor society, our chapter participates in the Annual Homecoming Olympics.

ESL Classes- Due to recent closing of a major company in our town, our chapter is assisting 4-5 people a week to learn English conversation and writing skills. This occurs once a week during the semesters”. The chapter student officers are: President: Christopher Woodcook; V.P. Meagan Dixon; Treasurer & Secretary: Raleigh Hust. The chapter faculty advisor is: **Dr. Joshua Mora.**

Epsilon Chi chapter at Oklahoma City University in Oklahoma, Oklahoma, wrote that its “ ... initiation ceremony was scheduled for December 5, 2013. Due to a winter storm we cancelled it. It actually took place on Thursday, February 6, 2014 in Walker Center with the faculty members of the Modern Language Department. Seven new members were inducted. Dr. Marc Griffin the new Head of the Department talked about Alpha Mu Gamma and encouraged new members to participate in AMG activities on campus. Refreshments were served and pictures were taken showing the new members and AMG officers.” The chapter faculty advisor is: **Jacques Buttin.**

Eta Pi chapter at Fairfield University, Fairfield, Connecticut added a total of 112 new members (61 in the fall and 51 in the spring) to its roster at this year’s initiation ceremony on March 16th, for a total of 218 members. Dr. Silvia Marsans-Sakly, a History professor at the University gave the keynote address. As is our tradition, students recited the AMG membership pledge in the language for which they were being recognized. At the end of the ceremony, we honored our graduating senior members, recognized our graduating Co-Presidents and Vice President with the *Eta Pi Award* and also installed new officers. After the ceremony a reception was held.

Some activities this semester included: Monthly International Meet & Greet, Monthly member meetings, National Foreign Language Week celebration (dancing, games, trivia games with prizes, international movies, French, German, Italian & Spanish Movie Nights), Dorm Storm Fundraiser, Activities Fairs (September and January), Open Houses for accepted students in April.

The new officers are: Co-Presidents - Elizabeth Elliott & Colleen O’Halloran, Vice President - Victoria Mulé, Secretary - Stephanie Gutkin, Treasurer - Lindsay Stephen, Historian - Noelle Harvey. The chapter faculty advisors are: **Dr. Zoe Erotopoulos (French) and Dr. Eileen Wilkinson (German)**

Eta Psi chapter at Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville, Tennessee, had 42 members at the beginning of the academic year and went on to induct 18 more members. No special activities were reported. The chapter student officers are: President: Bleu Jackson; V.P.: Erica Sircy; Treasurer & Secretary: Kathryn Randall. The chapter faculty advisor is: **Dr. Martin Sheenhan.**

Gamma Tau chapter at La Sierra University in California held its initiation ceremony on 27 April 2014 at the Alumni Center. Inducted 11 new members. The Key Note speaker, Prof. Juan Velez talked about “Mexican Folklore & Traditional Music”. The very interesting talk was accompanied by short films as well as singing and music played by Prof. Velez personally on his accordion. The National Officers of AMG were invited to the ceremony, unfortunately due to health problems only the Administrative Assistant was able to do so. A buffet followed the ceremony and election for student chapter officials were held. The chapter faculty advisor is **Dr. Lourdes E. Morales-Gudmundsson.**



Iota Nu chapter at Delaware State University in Dover, Delaware, Initiated two new members “thus far”. The faculty advisor played the role of Marshall and President with understanding that once the two candidates are initiated, they would play other ceremonial roles such as reading the history of the Society, the explanation of symbols and the poem. Music by Spanish classical guitarist such as Andrés Segovia & Nariciso Yepes were played in the background. The chapter faculty advisor is: **Dr. Edward Dawley**.

Iota Theta chapter at Anderson University in Anderson, Indiana, state that it had 9 members at the start of the academic year and that it inducted 9 more during this year. It is to be noted **that two members of the chapter: Jesica Soariano (student President of the chapter) and Layne Onks (Treasurer) attended the 34th AMG National Convention held at Elmhurst College, Illinois (Sept. 26, 2013.** “They each presented a paper and learned much from the experience. Also we held two foreign language movie nights and manned a popcorn booth at Homecoming in order to raise funds to help replenish the travel expenses incurred at the Convention: The chapter student officers are: President: Jesica Soriano; V.P.: Lindsey Hill; Treasurer: Layne Onks and Secretary: Whitney Wright. The chapter faculty advisor is: **Brandan Grayson**.

Mu Rho chapter at the University of Jamestown in Jamestown, North Dakota reported that it had 9 members at the beginning of the school year and went on to initiate 8 new members. Its report stated:” Had a booth at the Homecoming Fair with ISO. Had 2 movie nights (Spanish; ‘Una Cuenta Chino ... La Cara Oculta & Russian: ‘The Professional’). Made Valentine Day cards in different languages. Teamed up with ISO for ‘Relay for Life”. The chapter student officers are: President: Megan Baker; VP: Katie Carpenter; Treasurer: Rudy Strand & Secretary: Nichole Kenney. The chapter faculty advisor is **Professor Cecil J. Roth** (*who has suggested that the membership fees should be raised! Any comments?*)

Theta Omicron chapter at Saginaw Valley State University in University Center, Michigan indicated in its report that it initiated 21 new members, and that “... the students served as hosts and judges for contests during our annual Foreign Language Day for 500 area high school students. Students also participated in the International Food Festival, the International Student Orientation and Intercultural Night. They also hosted information booths to discuss the benefits of learning a second language and to encourage students to study another language”. The chapter students officers are: President: Alan Ritenbark; V.P. : Megan Roelant; Historian: Siobion Richards; Treasurer: Ashley Makidon and Scretary: Teressa Nurenberg. The chapter faculty advisor is: **Barbara Cohen**.

Theta Rho chapter at Worcester State University in Worcester, Massachusetts, informed us the names of the new elected students officers: President: Luis Santos; VP: Jorge Vazquez; Treasurer: Ni Lu and Secretary: Scott Burstall. The chapter faculty advisor is: **Judith Jeon Chapman**.

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## THANKS

The National Office wishes to express its thanks to the following chapters for their contributions to AMG Scholarship Fund:

|                           |                                |           |           |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Lambda Eta chapter</b> | Texas Lutheran University      | Seguin    | Texas     |
| <b>Beta Xi chapter</b>    | College of Mount Saint Vincent | Riverdale | New York  |
| <b>Alpha Omega</b>        | Mount St. Mary University      | Milwaukee | Wisconsin |

We do appreciate these kind & thoughtful gestures..



# Alpha Mu Gamma

## THE NATIONAL ALPHA MU GAMMA SCHOLARSHIPS

### 2015-2016

The following opportunities for scholarships in the year 2015 are available through the National Scholarship Committee of Alpha Mu Gamma, on a competitive basis to all **FULL** members of Alpha Mu Gamma (undergraduate & graduates). ***The scholarships must be used for continued study of a foreign language*** and may be applied to study at any accredited academic institution during summer or fall/spring 2015-2016

1. **Three \$1,000** *Goddard, Indovina & Krakowski Scholarships.*
2. **\$500** *James Fonseca Scholarship for the study of Esperanto or Spanish.*
3. **\$500** *Sister Eloise-Thérèse Scholarship.*

Each applicant-for an Alpha Mu Gamma scholarship must carry out the steps listed below by the indicated deadline.

- **Fill** in the form: “Application for an Alpha Mu Gamma Scholarship”. Pay particular attention to the “Personal Statement/Essay”, as it weighs heavily in the evaluation process. ***This application and essay must be submitted in QUADRUPLICATE. (4 copies)***
- **Have 3** qualified persons (e.g. professors or employers) who know you, one of whom must be the faculty advisor of your AMG chapter, fill out the “The Recommendation for Alpha Mu Gamma Scholarship” **form**. Have them return the recommendation to you in a sealed envelope.
- **Obtain** your **official** college transcript(s) from the Registrar’s Office. If your college policy does not provide official transcripts to students, make certain that the college sends your transcript(s) directly to the Chair of the Scholarship Committee (see address below) in time to arrive, **and be received by the Scholarship Chair, by the deadline** of
- 

**February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

- **Photocopy** your Full Alpha Mu Gamma Membership certificate.
- Then **collect** all the above required documents: your 4 copies of the application and essay; the 3 recommendations; your transcript and the photocopy of the certificate and **mail them in ONE packet** directly to the Chair of the Scholarship Committee (and **NOT** to AMG National Office!).

Dr. Eileen M. Wilkinson  
Chair, AMG Scholarship Committee  
Department of Modern Languages and Literatures  
Fairfield University  
1073 North Benson Road  
Fairfield, CT 06824

e-mail: [ewilkinson@fairfield.edu](mailto:ewilkinson@fairfield.edu)

**FAILURE TO SUBMIT ALL OF THE REQUIREMENTS AS STIPULATED ABOVE BY THE February 1<sup>ST</sup> DEADLINE WILL RESULT IN AUTOMATIC DISQUALIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION.**

*Please note that each year applicants are disqualified because of incomplete papers, late receipt of the application, or because one of the required documents is missing.*

Scholarship winners will be notified by the end of April 2015, and will receive further instructions. Payment from Alpha Mu Gamma National Office will be made after the beginning of the term for which the award is made (summer or fall), upon receipt of enrollment verification from the registrar where the recipient is enrolled confirming a continuing **study of a foreign language**.

**CRITERIA FOR SELECTION:**

1. *ALPHA MU GAMMA Full Membership*
2. *Demonstrate excellence in foreign language study and for further study by:*
  - Student's essay*
  - Cumulative GPA*
  - Foreign Language courses GPA*
  - Participation in Chapter activities.*
3. *Recommendations*
4. *Preferences is given to foreign language majors.*

The Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIIS), in Monterey, California, offers a limited number of two-year, half-tuition scholarships for members of Alpha Mu Gamma who enter in the 2015-2016 academic year. The scholarship applies toward tuition only. The number of scholarships awarded will depend on the applicant pool. All Alpha Mu Gamma members may apply for the M.I.I.S. scholarship by **directly** contacting M.I.I.S, **independently** from Alpha Mu Gamma's other scholarships. (For M.I.I.S scholarship you should **NOT** apply to the AMG Scholarship Chairman, but **directly** to M.I.I.S. **for admission** to the Institute, **and simultaneously** for one of the scholarship set aside in Alpha Mu Gamma's name).

\*\*\*The Scholarship forms can be downloaded from our web site:  
[www://lacitycollege.edu/academic/honor/amg/form.html](http://www://lacitycollege.edu/academic/honor/amg/form.html)

|                                   |       |     |
|-----------------------------------|-------|-----|
| Sister Eloise-Thérèse Scholarship | \$500 | [ ] |
|-----------------------------------|-------|-----|

1- IN WHAT EXTRA-CURRICULAR **COLLEGIATE** ACTIVITIES ONLY HAVE YOU PARTICIPATED, IN PARTICULAR IN YOUR CHAPTER'S ACTIVITIES, PROGRAMS, POSITION ETC.

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2- WHAT LEADERSHIP ROLES HAVE YOU PLAYED AS A UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE STUDENT?

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3- WHAT SCHOLASTIC HONORS HAVE YOU WON SINCE BEING A UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE STUDENT?

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4- PERSONAL STATEMENT/ESSAY:

On separate sheet of paper, in essay form, indicate, as fully as possible, (to be TYPED)

-YOUR REASONS FOR DESIRING A SCHOLARSHIP AND HOW YOU WOULD USE IT.

-IN WHAT WAY WOULD THE SCHOLARSHIP HELP YOU ACHIEVE YOUR LONG-RANGE GOALS? HOW WOULD IT FURTHER YOUR ABILITY TO BE OF SERVICE TO SOCIETY?

-THE IMPORTANCE OF/NEED FOR LANGUAGE STUDY IN TODAY'S WORLD.

*(The essay is an important requirement and will weigh heavily in assessing the applicants.)*

# Alpha Mu Gamma

## RECOMMENDATION FOR AN ALPHA MU GAMMA SCHOLARSHIP

The deadline for the Scholarship is **1<sup>st</sup>. February 2015**

NAME OF APPLICANT (in full): .....Date:     /     / 201

### TO THE PERSON RECOMMENDING THIS STUDENT:

The student named above is applying either for one of the three \$1,000 National Alpha Mu Gamma Scholarships; or for the \$500 "James Fonseca" Scholarship for the study of Esperanto or Spanish ; or for Sister Eloise-Thérèse \$500 Scholarship.

**Please fill out this recommendation sheet on both sides.** If you lack information on a given question, leave the item blank or indicate N/A. You may add a written recommendation, but this sheet is essential for the evaluation of the student.

1. How would you rank the student on the qualities listed below?

|                                                                                                   | Poor | Fair | Good | Superior |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|------|----------|
| Academic Performance                                                                              |      |      |      |          |
| Commitment to continued Foreign Language Study                                                    |      |      |      |          |
| Academic Honesty & Integrity                                                                      |      |      |      |          |
| Academic Potential                                                                                |      |      |      |          |
| Academic & Community Leadership (Chapter's activities & participation, school, church, club etc.) |      |      |      |          |

2. How long have you known this student? How well? In what situation?

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3. What strong intellectual interests does the student have?

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4. How has the student contributed to his/her own educational experience outside of the classroom?

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5. Has the student any demonstrated outstanding achievements?

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6. What academic/college difficulties, if any, has the student had or does he/she now seem to be experiencing in college?

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7. Please make any additional remarks in the space below; including your observations on what makes this student a strong candidate for an Alpha Mu Gamma scholarship.

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8. **(AMG Advisors only): How has the applicant contributed to your chapter program and activities?** *[This will weigh heavily in the evaluation]*

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Full Name: (Print or Type):

Signature:

Position:

Institution Address:

(Form: A-1209-11B)



*Attached is a review article of a book, that appeared in the "Economist" magazine, entitled : 'Chinese: The New Way to Read Chinese', by Shaolan Hsueh. It is about a new method for facilitating the teaching/learning of Chinese. We believe that it would be of interest to all language teachers, especially those who teach Chinese.*

## Learning Chinese

# The memory game

## A new way of teaching Chinese ideograms to foreign audiences

**Chineasy: The New Way to Read Chinese.** By Shaolan Hsueh. *Thames Hudson*; 192 pages; £12.95. Buy from [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com), [Amazon.co.uk](http://Amazon.co.uk)

HUNDREDS of millions of children and adults across China are learning English. Yet despite the country's growing influence, rather fewer people outside the Middle Kingdom are learning Chinese. One obvious reason is that the language is notoriously hard. Two things make the two main Chinese languages, Mandarin and Cantonese, so fiendish to master. First, they are tonal, so a rising, falling or dipping pitch changes a word's meaning. Second, they have no alphabet, relying instead on ideograms, or characters, to represent each word. To be literate requires memorising thousands of characters, compared with manipulating no more than 33 letters in most other major languages.

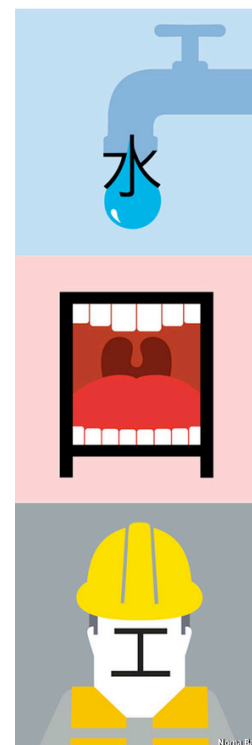
A new book, "Chineasy", aims to change that by offering an approachable introduction. Shaolan Hsueh, its Taiwanese author, developed her system after watching her British-born children struggle with characters. With striking illustrations by Noma Bar she has conceived an appealing, if not exactly easy, primer for foreign audiences learning Mandarin.

Her method uses a technique already popular with Chinese schoolchildren to turn many of the basic characters on which the language is built into illustrations. The character for "person" is easier to remember if the student imagines a head and two feet on it. "Mouth" gets a tongue and teeth, and "soil" a sprouting leaf. Since many of the more complicated characters combine basic ones, Ms Hsueh's idea is for learners to create stories for each ideogram. "Person" becomes "big" with the addition of a line, like "a man stretching his arms wide". This can be turned into "sky" by adding a further line to represent "the spiritual level above man and earth"; and so on.

Many of Ms Hsueh's engaging explanations will be familiar to those already learning the language: "to sit" is "two people sitting on the soil"; "disaster" is a fire under a roof. The book also brings in history: the character for "beautiful" is made up of "sheep" and "big", apparently because sheep were considered auspicious in ancient China; "good" combines "woman" and "son" because a good woman was thought to be one who bore a boy.

"Chineasy" succeeds in making these familiar ideas memorable. It gives the beginner, confronted by a seemingly random scrawl of ideograms, somewhere to start in deciphering them. But nothing can downplay the sheer number of characters that anyone studying the language must learn—or the leaps of logic that face them. It is easy to remember that two mouths together mean "shout", for example, but the word's pronunciation (*xuan*) bears no resemblance to that for a single mouth (*kou*).

At the beginning of "Chineasy", Ms Hsueh talks of the "Great Wall of Chinese" that stops East and West from communicating effectively. As alluring as it is, her tome cannot break down that wall, or even provide a door through it. But it does at least give keen learners a few footholds as they start to climb. As a Chinese proverb famously notes, even a journey of a thousand miles begins beneath one's feet.



# Alpha Mu Gamma

## NEW ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2013-2015

### National President:

**Dr. Beatriz Gomes-Acuna** (Elmhurst College, Elmhurst, Illinois – Theta Upsilon chapter)

### First Vice-President:

**Matt Borden** (Carthage College, Kenosh, Wisconsin – Pi chapter)

### National Executive Secretary:

**Eiko J. Chatel** (Los Angeles City College, California, Alpha chapter).

### National Treasurer:

**Jose O. Morín** (Los Angeles City College, Alpha chapter).

### Intercultural Relations Chairperson :

**Dr. Covadonga Arango-Martin** (Fairfield University, Connecticut, Eta Pi chapter)

### Scholarship Chairperson :

**Dr. Eileen Wilkinson** (Fairfield University, Fairfield, Connecticut, Eta Pi chapter)

## Regional Vice Presidents

[1] Alabama: **[VACANT]**

[2] Arizona, Nevada & Utah: **[VACANT]**

[3] Arkansas, New Mexico & Texas:

**Dr. Miguel Estrada** (Houston) Baptist University, Texas - Iota Rho chapter)

[4] California, Oregon & Utah:

**Dr. Lourdes E. Morales-Gudmundson** (La Sierra University, Riverside, CA- Gamma Tau)

[5] South Carolina:

**Dr. June C. D. Carter** (University of South Carolina, Upstate, SC - Nu Iota chapter)

[6] North Carolina **[VACANT]**

[7] Colorado, Idaho, Montana & Wyoming: **[VACANT]**

[8] Dakotas:

**Katherine Stevenson** (Jamestown College, Jamestown, North Dakota – Mu Rho chapter)

[9] Delaware, Maryland, the Virginias & Washington D.C.:

**Dr. Dominick DeFilipps** (Wheeling Jesuit University, West Virginia – Mu Nu chapter)

[10] Florida:

**Jeanne R. Gilleland** (St. Petersburg College, Florida – Lambda Delta chapter)

[11] Georgia:

**Dr. Ivan Ruiz-Ayala** (Georgia University, Georgia – Theta Kappa chapter)

[12] Illinois, & Michigan:

**Dr. Beatriz Gomez Acuna** (Elmhurst College, Illinois - Theta Upsilon chapter)

**[13] Iowa & Minnesota:**

**Mark Bates** (Simpson College, Indianola, Iowa – Zeta Delta chapter)

**[14] Kansas & Nebraska:**

**Dr. Sarah Sinnott** (Benedictine College, Kansas – Iota Pi chapter)

**[15] Indiana & Kentucky:**

**Lynn Margolies** (Manchester College, Indiana - Nu Gamma chapter)

**[16] Louisiana & Mississippi:**

**Dr. Linda Lassiter** (Southern University, Louisiana – Beta Sigma chapter)

**[17] Missouri:**

**Dr. Catherine Campbell** (Cotter College, Missouri – Kappa Gamma chapter)

**[18] New England States:**

**Angela Tauro** (Fairfield University, Connecticut – Eta Pi chapter)

**[19] New York:**

**Rev. Martin Conkling** (Concordia College, NY- Nu Pi chapter)

**[20] Wisconsin:**

**Matt Borden** (Carthage College – Kenosha – Pi chapter)

**[21] Oklahoma: [VACANT]****[22] Pennsylvania & New Jersey:**

**Sandra Laurie Reynolds** (Raritan Valley Community College, New Jersey – Mu Sigma chapter)

**[23] Ohio & Tennessee: [VACANT]****[24] US Virgin Islands: [VACANT]**

If any chapter advisor would be interested in filling one of the Regional vacant Vice-President positions appearing above, please inform us of his/her wish. If there is only submission, then that person would automatically be named as Regional Vice-President for the regional grouping. Of course submissions should be from chapters advisors falling within that region.

If an advisor wishes to serve as Regional VP for one state instead of a combination, it would be possible for us to split the region.

### **DUTIES OF REGIONAL VP**

The principle duties of a Regional Vice-President are:

- Representing and promoting the Society in their geographical region.
- Encouraging the formation of new chapters.... promote the organization in local universities, colleges and high schools
- Re-activating dormant chapters
- Being the primary contact with the chapters in their region.
- Presiding at the installation of new chapters in their respective region, if convenient and possible.
- Promoting the observation of National Foreign Language Week.
- Soliciting the Governor of their State to issue a Proclamation for NFLW and designating a chapter from each state in their region, to do likewise.
- He/she serves as a liaison between the state/region and the national office

*The amount of work and time each individual puts into the position varies and there is nothing stipulated in terms of reporting information to the National Office.*

**Alpha Mu Gamma National Presidents**

|                              |               |                       |
|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Arthur B. Forster            | Alpha         | Apr.1933 - Jun.1933   |
| Eleanor Thayer               | Beta          | Jun. 1933 - Oct 1933  |
| Marea Goddard                | Alpha         | Oct. 1933 - Dec 1935  |
| May E. Williams              | Epsilon       | Dec. 1935 - Apr 1938  |
| Dr. Fernand Cattelain        | Iota          | Apr. 1938 - Mar1940   |
| Meyer Krakowski              | Alpha         | Mar. 1940 - Mar 1942  |
| Eda Ramelli                  | Xi            | Mar. 1942 - Mar 1948  |
| Dr. Stella Lovering          | Alpha         | Mar. 1948 - Apr 1950  |
| Josephine L. Indovina        | Alpha         | Apr. 1950 - Apr 1952  |
| Dr. Frank H. Reinsch         | Nu            | Apr. 1952 - Apr 1956  |
| Sister Eloise Therese (1)    | Sigma         | Apr. 1956 - Apr 1958  |
| Dr, Andreina Becker-Colognna | Theta         | Apr. 1958 - Apr 1959  |
| Sister Eloise Therese (2)    | Sigma         | Apr. 1959 - May 1960  |
| Wesley C. Drummond           | Gamma         | May 1960 - May 1962   |
| Sister Bernard Marie         | Alpha Beta    | May 1962 - Apr 1964   |
| Dr. Richard I. Trapp         | Psi           | Apr. 1964 - Mar 1968  |
| Sister Rosaire Grewen        | Alpha Xi      | Mar. 1968 - Apr 1971  |
| Dr. Joseph V. Thomas         | Gamma Iota    | Apr. 1971 - Apr 1973  |
| Dr. Dannielle C. Cooper      | Delta Epsilon | Apr. 1973 - Apr 1975  |
| Jacqueline E. Logan          | Gamma Rho     | Apr. 1975 - Jan. 1979 |
| Dr, James Fonseca            | Gamma Sigma   | Jan. 1979 - Mar 1983  |
| Dr. Harriet Semke            | Delta Alpha   | Mar. 1983 - Feb. 1985 |
| Carmelita Thomas             | Alpha         | Feb. 1985 - Feb 1989  |
| Dr. Marina Smith             | Beta Iota     | Feb. 1989 - Feb 1990  |
| Dr. Earl Thompson            | Theta Upsilon | Oct. 1990 - Mar 1992  |
| Dr. John Doohen              | Beta Psi      | Feb. 1992 - Mar 1994  |
| Dr. Les Caltvedt             | Theta Upsilon | Mar. 1994 - Jan 1996  |
| Sally Shulmistras            | Iota Theta    | Jan 1996 – Sept1998   |
| Dr. Franklin Triplett        | Theta Nu      | Sept. 1998–Sept 2006  |
| Lynda Durham                 | Gamma Rho     | Sept. 2006 – Jan.2008 |
| Dr. Catherine Campbell       | Kappa Gamma   | Jan. 2008 - Sep. 2009 |
| Dr. Eileen Wilkinson         | Eta Pi        | Sept. 2009– Oct. 2013 |
| Dr. Beatriz Gomez-Acuña      | Theta Upsilon | Oct. 2013-            |

## BIENNIAL NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

|               |                     |                                                                            |
|---------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| First         | Dec 20-21, 1935     | Alpha – Los Angeles City College, Los Angeles,                             |
| Second        | April 11-12, 1938   | Epsilon – Chico State College (*) [USC-Chico]                              |
| Third         | March 17-19, 1940   | Alpha – Los Angeles City College, Los Angeles,                             |
| Fourth        | March 28-30, 1942   | Xi – UC – Santa Barbara (**), Santa Barbara, CA                            |
| Fifth         | March 20-21, 1948   | Xi – UC- Santa Barbara (**) Santa Barbara, CA                              |
| Sixth         | April 1-2, 1950     | Alpha – Los Angeles City College. Los Angeles,                             |
| Seventh       | April 5-6, 1952     | Phi- Valley College (*) [Los Angeles Valley College]                       |
| Eighth        | April 10-11, 1954   | Gamma – Long Beach City College (**)CA                                     |
| Ninth         | April 14-15, 1956   | Nu – UCLA (**) Los Angeles, CA                                             |
| Tenth         | April 11-13, 1958   | Xi – UC – Santa Barbara (**) Santa Barbara, CA                             |
| Eleventh      | May 7-8, 1960       | Psi – USC (**) Los Angeles, CA                                             |
| Twelfth       | May 5-6, 1962       | Alpha Beta – Marymount College. (**) P CA                                  |
| Thirteenth    | April 18, 1964      | Psi – USC (**) Los Angeles, CA                                             |
| Fourteenth    | April 23, 1966      | Sigma – Mount St. Mary's College, Los Angeles,                             |
| Fifteenth     | March 22-24, 1969   | Wilber Wright College- Gamma Xi (*) &<br>Southwest College, , Delta Pi (*) |
| Sixteenth     | April 2-4           | Alpha Xi – College of Saint Rose (*), Albany, NY                           |
| Seventeenth   | April 26-28, 1973   | Delta Epsilon –M.I.I.S, Monterey, CA (**)                                  |
| Eighteenth    | 1975                | Epsilon Rho – Kearney State College, Kearney, NB                           |
| Nineteenth    | 1977                | Gamma Rho – Casper College, Casper, Wyoming                                |
| Twentieth     | April 6-8, 1979     | Gamma Sigma– California Lutheran University, CA                            |
| Twenty-first  | April 2-3, 1981     | Zeta Xi – Prairie View A&M University, TX                                  |
| Twenty-second | March 4-5, 1983     | Beta Iota – Antelope Valley College, Lancaster, CA                         |
| Twenty-third  | Feb. 22-23, 1985    | Iota Pi – Benedictine College, Atchison, Kansas                            |
| Twenty-fourth | Nov. 1987           | Kappa Nu – Morehouse College, Atlanta, GA                                  |
| Twenty-fifth  | March 16-18, 1989   | Iota Theta – Anderson University, Anderson, IN                             |
| Twenty-sixth  | March 19-21, 1992   | Beta Chi – Cardinal Stritch College                                        |
| Twenty-seven  | March 24-26, 1994   | Epsilon Chi – Oklahoma City University. OK                                 |
| Twenty-eighth | January 18-21, 1996 | Kappa Omega – Bethune-Cookman College, FL                                  |
| Twenty-ninth  | Sept. 24-27, 1998   | Lambda Omega–Cedar Crest College (***),PA                                  |
| Thirtieth     | March 29–Apr.,2001  | Eta Pi– Fairfield University, CT                                           |
| Thirty-first  | Sept. 14 – 16, 2006 | Gamma Rho – Casper College, Casper, Wyoming                                |
| Thirty-Second | Oct. 15-17, 2009    | Eta Pi – Fairfield University, Fairfield, CT                               |
| Thirty-Third  | Oct. 21-22, 2011    | Alpha – Los Angeles City College, CA                                       |
| Thirty-Fourth | Oct. 26-29, 2013    | Theta Upsilon – Elmhurst College, Illinois                                 |