

# 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**

**FALL 2013**

---

## **National President Message**

Greetings Alpha Mu Gamma Members!

It was a pleasure to see so many of you at our last convention celebrated September 26-28 at Elmhurst College in Chicago. The conference included fifteen sessions with a total of sixty-two presentations on topics as varied as literature, culture, study abroad and service learning. Members from ten different states were present making the conference one of the best attended in recent AMG history. We are especially proud of all our Undergraduate student members who represented their respective Chapters so well.

At the end of the conference I was elected AMG National President for a two-year term. My most sincere thanks go to the Executive Council for the trust they deposited in me and to Eileen Wilkinson for her work as National President in the last few years. I am ready to serve our Society with enthusiasm and energy. I look forward to receiving your input on issues you would like to improve or on initiatives you would like us to undertake.

We are happy to be sharing with you our Fall 2013 Newsletter that contains exciting information. We hope you find it useful and relevant. Among other things, the newsletter includes information on a newly established scholarship honoring Sister Eloise Therese, discusses the rules for the Foreign Language Week Poster competition, explains the Writing contest organized by Mount St. Mary's College in Los Angeles and incorporates statistics on the growth of our Society.

We are looking to fill several vacant positions for regional Vice Presidents. I urge chapter advisors of those regions to volunteer to fill those spots.

Also, all chapters should be sure to submit their annual chapter reports with detailed information on the activities undertaken. These reports are extremely helpful to all members as they provide ideas and initiatives to implement.

Looking forward, we are seeking a Chapter that may be interested in hosting the 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

Best wishes to all. Continue your search with eyes aloft.

Sincerely,

Beatriz Gómez Acuña  
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,

The fall semester of 2013 started with the most uplifting experiences at our 34<sup>th</sup> National Convention at Elmhurst College in Illinois. National Headquarters would like to express its congratulations and thanks to Dr. Beatriz Gómez-Acuña and the members of Theta Upsilon Chapter and the Department of World Languages, Literature and Cultures at Elmhurst College including our former presidents of the society, Dr. Les Calvedt and Dr. Earl Thompson. It was a well-organized and well attended convention! At the end of the convention, Dr. Beatriz Gómez-Acuña was elected as the next President of the society. National Headquarters is looking forward to working with our new president! National Headquarters also would like to express its thanks to Dr. Eileen Wilkinson for her two terms of leadership as the President. I personally had the honor of presenting her and the Chapter Eta Pi, Fairfield University, the plaque for recruiting 168 members in the span of the last two years. It was always nice to remember where we have been during the last 81 years of the society with the wonderful presentation by our former presidents and professor at Elmhurst College, Dr. Earl Thompson; “The History of Alpha Mu Gamma”. It is my strong suggestion that any chapter that has not seen this presentation, should contact Dr. Earl Thompson to obtain the document. It is always nice to know where we have been when we want to move forward! Other exciting news is that the council members, under the leadership of scholarship chair, Prof. Sally Shulmistras, voted to increase the James Fonseca Scholarship from \$400 to \$500 and to add a new scholarship of \$500. The new scholarship is named the “Sister Eloise-Thérèse Scholarship” in honor of a former National President and the person who was responsible for creating the AMG National Foreign Language Week. So, please be informed of these new activities and news of our society. Do not forget to send in news of your chapter’s activities and pictures to us for the next newsletter.

Wishing you all the most successful semester.

Sincerely yours,

Eiko Kitajima Chatel

Los Angeles City College



### Full Member Recruitment since 2000

2000 – 2001	=	1,784	2008 – 2009	=	1,907
2002 – 2003	=	1,964	2010 - 2011	=	2,177
2004 – 2005	=	1,805	2012 – 2013	=	1,8016 (up to Oct. 2013)
2006 – 2007	=	1,599			

A total of 13,043 full members

### New Chapters since 2011:

Feb. 2011	Xi Eta	Eastern Kentucky University
May 2011	Xi Theta	Miami Dade College-North Campus
Oct. 2011	Xi Iota	Washington & Jefferson College
Nov. 2011	Xi Kappa	Drake University
Jan. 2012	Xi Lambda	St. Edwards University
Mar. 2012	Xi Mu	Ventura College
May 2013	Xi Nu	University of South Florida – Petersburg
May 2013	Xi Xi	Henderson State University
May 2013	Xi Omicron	Boise State University
Sept. 2013	Xi Pi	St. Louis Community College-Florissant Valley

This brings the total of AMG chapters to **353** chapters.

## Message from the Administrative Assistant

*We kindly ask all chapters advisors to please pay close attention to the following information, so as to avoid future frustration, confusion, uncertainty etc.*

### The Membership Plastic ID Cards

Many chapters have asked us why they did not receive these cards with their filled order!

Once more we will elaborate this point. Once we receive the names of the full members to be inducted, we send these, by e-mail, to the printer/embosser we deal with ( in Florida). Once the cards are embossed with the relevant names, they are mailed to us by regular US mail. In turn we mail them out, the same day or next, by regular mail to the concerned chapter.

Now the important factor to keep in mind is that the printer/embosser **takes no less than 2 weeks** to prepare the cards and mail them to us. In majority of cases the actual order for certificates and other items would have already been mailed out by us by US Priority Mail and received by the chapter a number of weeks before the arrival of the cards.

To expedite matter, we have suggested and are suggesting that chapters, once they have a confirmed list of the names of those applying for full membership, to e-mail these names and the month of the initiation ceremony well before sending-in the actual order. That way we may have some leeway in receiving the cards earlier.

### Payment for Orders

From time to time the National Office attempts to help out a chapter that is running short on time, by filling its order before actual receipt of payment ... Something that is against the long standing rules of the National Office. This is done as a courtesy, although we do not encourage it! The unfortunate consequence of this act of good faith is that some of these chapters seem to forget the whole matter and payment is not made. Our office then has to go through the time-consuming process of writing to the chapter concerned reminding it of the over-due payment. Sometimes this process drags on for several months and causes disruption to our bookkeeping and records.

**We, therefore, strongly urge all those chapters who are late in their payments to send-in their outstanding payment as quickly as possible.**

- Once more we would like to draw the attention of all advisors to the fact that the National Office does not and will not accept personal checks from students in payment of membership fees and the purchase of other items. Such checks will be returned to the chapter with the unfilled order. The National Office accept the following forms of payment: Advisor's checks, school purchase orders and preferably money orders.
- The "Application for Candidacy forms are to be retained by the concerned chapter for its own use and records and should NOT be sent to the National Office.

### Receipts

Please be aware that it is not the policy of the National Office to issue receipts for the orders or monies received from chapters. It is a time-consuming process, especially when six or more orders have to be processed on the same day.

In the event that a particular chapter does require a receipt, it should clearly indicate that on the Order Form (with a stick-on note). But please be aware that the receipt, in most cases will be sent separately from the filled order, and at a latter date after the actual order itself. The receipt is sent, as an attachment, by electronic mail.

### Changes/Updates

The following is a repetition of what we have been asking chapters to do over the years. Unfortunately, some chapters seem to ignore to advise us to changes and updates to information concerning them.

Would all chapters advisors keep us informed of the following changes, as soon as they occur (In order of priority):

- Any changes in the position of the advisor and in particular the name of the new advisor and his/her mailing address.
- Changes in the name of the institution e.g. college to university etc.
- Changes in the e-mail addresses, phone numbers etc.
- Changes in the official title of the advisor, e.g. professor to doctor.
- Changes in the mailing address of the institution.

### Order Forms

Every Order Form sent to the National Office must have the name of the chapter advisor on it. If an advisor allocates or authorizes the filling out of the Order Form to a third party e.g. one of the chapter student officers, or the department secretary or any other person acting under the supervision of the advisor etc. etc. then the name of the person so designated should be made clear on the Order Form, Notwithstanding this, the advisor's name MUST appear in the field reserved for the advisor. Otherwise confusion arises as to whether the person sending-in the Order Form is a new advisor.

This also applies to orders placed by electronic mail.

Please down load the up-to-date Order Form from our web site:

<http://www.lacitycollege.edu/academic/honor/amg/forms.html>

### 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."



# Alpha Mu Gamma

National Executive Council

## MINUTES

Elmhurst College, Elmhurst, Illinois

(34<sup>th</sup> National Convention)

27 Friday 2013

7:30 – 8:30 am & 5:00 – 5:45 pm

Present were:

Dr. Eileen Wilkinson

Eiko Chatel

Sally Shulmistras

Dr. Beatriz Gómez-Acuña

Dr. Earl Thompson

Dr. Les Calvedt

Angela Tauro

Dr. Matt Borden

Dr. Miguel Estrada

National President

National Executive Secretary

Chair Scholarship Committee

Chair Intercultural Relations Committee

Former National President

Former National President

Regional Vice President—New England States

Regional Vice President—Wisconsin

Regional Vice-President – Arkansas, New Mexico & Texas

- 1- The President opened the meeting and submitted the Minutes of the last meeting (Los Angeles City College – 33<sup>rd</sup> National Convention), for approval. They were approved without changes.
- 2- **National Executive Secretary's Report:**  
The NES appraised the council of the recent developments in the Society in particular the establishment of new chapters and indicated how many new full members have been inducted during the last three years. She explained that since 2010 and up to mid 2013, 3,197 new full members were initiated into the Society. Furthermore, since 2011, 10 new chapters were added. The latest, the 353 chapter, being "Xi Pi" at St. Louis Community College – Florissant Valley campus, whose charter was granted on 30 September 2013.
- 3- **National Treasurer Report:**  
Due to unforeseen circumstances the National Treasurer was not able to attend the meeting, so the National Executive Secretary submitted the financial report for the year 2012. She stated that the funds available for running the National Office (checking account) were, at present, adequate to cover expenses.  
  
It was made clear to the members that the amounts awarded to the scholarships over many years had and are coming from the Society's checking account and not from the Scholarship Fund per-se. The monies in the mutual fund would only be touched when a drastic need arose for funding the National Office activity."
- 4- **Nomination for National President:**  
Due to the fact that the term of the current President was coming to an end, there was a need to nominate and elect the new President for the 2013-2015.  
**The name of Beatriz Gómez-Acuña was put forward and she was elected unanimously.**
- 5- **Nomination for National Vice President:**  
The position of National Vice President had been vacant since its occupant Patty Pang was no longer working in her university. **Dr. Matt Borden, Regional Vice President for Wisconsin, was put forward and was accepted unanimously.**
- 6- **Intercultural Relations Chair:**  
Dr. Corvadonga Arango-Martin, Professor of Spanish at Fairfield University was named chair.
- 7- **Scholarship:**
  - (a) **Scholarship Forms:**  
Sally Shulmistras, Chair of the Committee, indicated that she had a number of observations on the layout and language of the present Scholarships forms and she suggested some re-wording and amendments. One of the important amendments was a motion tabled by Dr. Thompson and adopted by the Council: "*Not to give scholarships for those applicants not meeting the requirements as stipulated in the Application Form. That if the Scholarship Committee considers an application to be inadequate, there would be no obligation to grant it.*"

- (b) **Chair:**  
Sally Shulmistras stated that she would be retiring mid 2015 and that the Council should look into the matter of nominating a replacement during 2014.
- (c) **Scholarship Committee:**  
The Committee had only two members, besides the Chair, as Patty Pang had retired. Therefore there was a need to nominate two more members. (As the Committee should consist of 4 members). Dr. Eileen Wilkinson as well as Dr. Miguel Estrada expressed their willingness to serve and were duly accepted.
- (d) **New Scholarship:**  
After some prolonged discussion on the merit of creating another scholarship and what to name it, It was agreed that a **new scholarship** for all other languages except Spanish & Esperanto (served by the James Fonseca Scholarship) **should be set up for \$500** and to be named after the late **Sister Eloise-Thérèse**, former National President, of St. Mary's College of California and the primary person responsible for initiating National Foreign Language Week.  
  
The Council also decided to increase the amount of the **James Fonseca Scholarship from \$400 to \$500.**
- (e) **National Foreign Language Week (NFLW):**  
Dr. Eileen Wilkinson suggested that chapters members should be involved in the creation of poster design and theme for NFLW. It was decided that Dr. Wilkinson and the National Office would work on the wording of a notice on this matter and to include it in the next issue of Society's Newsletter, as well as have it circulated electronically to all chapters.  
Regional Vice-Presidents and chapters advisors were urged to be more persistent in soliciting proclamation from their respective State Governors on the occasion of NFLW.
- (f) **National Membership Dues:** .  
The National Office indicated that there was no need, at this time, to increase these dues (\$25) or the fee for applying for the establishment of a new chapter (\$100).
- (g) **Regional Groups:**  
Concern was expressed as the fact that several regional groupings are and have been vacant for a number of years. This in spite of the several appeals, sent out over a number of years, urging advisors to stand for or nominate colleagues to fill these vacancies:  
(1)Alabama; (2) Arizona, Nevada & Utah. (3) Colorado, Idaho, Montana & Wyoming (4) Missouri. (5) Oklahoma. (6) US Virgin Islands.  
  
The Council members urged chapter advisors to fill these vacancies, either themselves or to nominate colleagues from their departments. Such nomination would be accepted automatically without a need for a vote. Also any current Regional Vice-President who consider the present composition of his region as being too wide/large or cumbersome, can solicit for the splitting of the states within his/her region, in order to facilitate and carry out his work more constructively.  
  
In this vein the Council agreed to the request of Dr. June Carter of the University of South Carolina – Upstate and at present Regional Vice-President for the Carolinas, to have split the representation for the two States.
- (h) **Administrative Assistant:**  
  
The National Executive Council was appraised of the fact that the Administrative Assistant was and is not an employee but an independent contractor, contracted to perform tasks for the Society, through the National Office, of 25 hours per week and for 8 months of the year. And as such he does not have fixed office hours and can perform the tasks entrusted to him anytime, anywhere!

**The meeting adjourned at 5:45, with no further meetings scheduled.**

*(NOTE: Due to time constraints the morning meeting had come to an end at 8:30 am and resumed at 5:00 pm to deal with outstanding issues)*

## Chapter Reports

**Alpha Chapter** at Los Angeles City College, California; held its initiation ceremony on 25 May 2013 at which it inducted 32 full members. The ceremony was attended by College Vice-President as well as faculty members of the Foreign Languages & Humanities Department, parents and friends. The ceremony was in keeping with tradition and was very formal. After the ceremony everyone was invited to enjoy refreshments. The faculty advisor is **Professor Eiko Chatel (also National Executive Secretary)**.

**Epsilon Chi** chapter at Oklahoma City University in Oklahoma, Initiated 14 new members on 6 December 2012. The ceremony was held in Walker Center with the Faculty Members of Modern Language Department. Dr. Hodkinson talked about Alpha MU Gamma and a new committee and a new President: Jason Herrera, were elected. Refreshments were served and pictures were taken showing the new members and the new officers. The faculty advisor is: **Professor Jacques Buttin**.

**Epsilon Iota** chapter at Bellarmine University in Louisville, Kentucky, reported the following: “The Epsilon Iota chapter had its induction ceremony at Hilary’s on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013 – a very intimate and friendly event held here at Bellarmine University. Ten new members were inducted into AMG. It was an intimate and quiet reception followed by food and conversation with student members regarding summer plans, internship and study abroad. As a recruiting strategy, we allowed them to bring invited guests, after the ceremony was completed, to enjoy the food and conversation. The ceremony included a diverse pool of students with major and minors in languages that range from Respiratory therapy, Philosophy, Political Sciences and Foreign Languages and International Studies. We are thankful to Ms. Arielle Weber, president of the chapter for conducting a wonderful ceremony, attended by faculty who are AMG members too”. The Chapter faculty advisor is **Dr. Nelson López**.

**Epsilon Pi** chapter at Grove City College had 27 members at the beginning of the academic year and went on to initiate 4 more members. The chapter participated in the International Food Fair as well as International Praise & Worship Service. It gave free language tutoring; and held “Amigos for Mexico” trailer. It also chaired a study abroad panel. The students officers are: President: Jamie Loran; VP: Amber Durree; Historian: Holly Spofford; Treasurer: Courtney Greenway and Secretary: David Schaeffer. The faculty advisor is: **Professor Cynthia Forrester**.

**Eta Pi** chapter at Fairfield University, Fairfield, Connecticut added 58 new members to its roster at its initiation ceremony on April 14, 2013, bringing its membership to 178 at the end of the academic year. 71 members graduated in 2013, but since the Eta Pi chapter accepts applications in both the spring and the fall, we were able to replenish our numbers with the addition of 59 new members. As of October 2013 our current membership is 166 and we expect to add to this number in the spring.

Our chapter has participated in or planned several activities since our last report in the spring. We continue to hold monthly member meetings and also sponsor monthly International Meet & Greets, which create opportunities for foreign students to mingle with American students, while enjoying food, drinks, games/activities. In March we organized Fairfield University’s National Foreign Language Week celebration. Dr. Jordano Quaglia, a Professor of Portuguese, organized a Brazilian Carnival, which kicked off our celebration. Other activities included: International dancing, Singing (including singing a ‘round’ of *Frere Jacques* in Spanish, French & German), Trivia games with prizes awarded, International foods, and a French Movie Night where we showed the film “LES CHORISTES” with English subtitles. To help finance some of our activities we held a ‘Dorm Storm’ in both the spring and fall semesters. [Grilled cheese sandwiches were sold in dorms].

Our chapter has found that participation in school wide events such as ‘Open Houses for Accepted Students’ (March & April), ‘Activities Fair’ (September) and the ‘Majors/Minors Fair’ (October) is a great promotional tool for the society, so we participated in each of these events again this year. We handed out globe key chains with tags that included our AMG email and a link to our Facebook page, which generated many inquiries.

This past September two of our officers, one full member, as well as the two co-advisors and an additional faculty member attended the convention at Elmhurst college, where they also gave presentations.

The current officers are: Co-Presidents – Olga Sidiropoulos and Tara McDermott, Vice President – Samantha Hart, Secretaries – Lauren Racano, Treasurer – Colleen O’Halloran, Historian – Elizabeth Elliott. The faculty advisors are: **Professors Eileen Wilkinson and Angela Tauro**.

**Eta Xi** chapter at Oklahoma Baptist University in Oklahoma, informed us that it initiated 9 full members in this current year and it had 13 members at the start of the year. The chapter participated in “Service Learning Project” that helped with local elementary school classrooms to present Spanish lessons. It also held an international potluck dinner and participated in a panel to discuss study abroad programs. The chapter sponsored National Foreign Language Week on campus. The chapter student officials are: President: Bethany Jackson; VP: Alisha Courtney; Historian: Esmerlada Hernandez; Treasurer: Elizabeth Ellis and Secretary Kaitlin Slothower. The chapter faculty advisor is: **Professor Radonna Roark**.

**Gamma Sigma** chapter at California Lutheran University in California, indicated that it had initiated 4 members during the current academic year. The student secretary of the chapter is: Jacqueline Avena. The faculty advisor is: **Dr. Eva L. Ramirez.**

**Iota Upsilon** chapter at West Virginia State University in Institute, West Virginia, had 12 members at the beginning of the academic year and initiated 4 new members during the year. The chapter sent the following report concerning its activities:

“The Department of Modern Languages sponsors a series of monthly Encuentros in Spanish. These tertulias or get-togethers feature speakers and visitors to the campus. In addition, several dinners were held at Rio Grande Restaurant providing participants the opportunity to speak Spanish. Lunches were also held at La Roca for students to practice their language skills in an informal setting. Mrs. Conner (*the chapter faculty advisor*) sponsors these tertulias which are open to anyone interested in the Spanish language or Hispanic culture.

“Likewise, the Circle français sponsors monthly meetings for students, faculty and staff and members of the community who are interested in French and Francophone language and culture. The sponsor is French professor Ms. Mary Frye.

“In late December and early January of this year AMG members Rachael Spaulding and Rebekah Hodge traveled to Costa Rica for a study abroad trip. Rebekah Hodge was the recipient of the West Virginia Higher Education Commission Study Abroad Scholarship. This year AMG members actively participated in the Salvation Army adopt a child for Christmas and raised money through bake sales to help purchase gifts for a needy child. In the spring the fund raising money will be used to purchase an animal for a needy family in another country with Heifer International.

“We also participated in campus activities with a booth at the Multi-Cultural Fair held in late April. Several of our members prepared typical foods of French speaking countries.

“Our initiation ceremony will be held April 8<sup>th</sup> in Campbell Conference Center on campus. After the ceremony we will enjoy a time of refreshments with parents, initiates and guests. Three full time members will be initiated into AMG along with two honorary members.” The chapter student officers are: President: Kaitlin Dewhurst; VP Sarah Curry; Treasurer: Rachael Spaulding and Secretary: Leah Harrell. The faculty advisor is **Professor Rebecca Conner.**

**Mu Phi** chapter at Delta College in University Center, Michigan; had 7 full members at the beginning of the new year. It went on to induct 3 new members in a ceremony held on 5 April 2013 at Delta College Planetarium. A dinner was offered after the ceremony. Parents and friends attended both the dinner and the initiation ceremony. Following that the attendees viewed an interactive show at the Planetarium. The secretary of the chapter is: Christine Coleman. The faculty advisor is: **Maria Francisca Sabl6-Yates.**

**Theta Omicron** chapter at Saginaw Valley State University in University Center in Michigan, stated that it had 16 members at the beginning of the academic year. Later on it inducted 13 new full members. Some of the chapter activities consisted of students serving as hosts and judges for contests during the annual Foreign Language Day for 500 area high school students. Chapter members participated in Relay for Life ... fundraising for the American Cancer Society. They also held two fundraisers by hosting talent shows on campus. The student officers are: President: Alan Rifenabrck; VP: Jason Schmidt; Historian: Basma Nassrallah; Treasurer: Ryan Sefcovic and Secretary: Aimee Wislon. The faculty advisor is: **Professor Barbara A. Cohen.**

**Theta Rho** chapter at Worcester State College, in Worcester, Massachusetts provided the names of its student officers: President: Laura Henriquez; VP: Brenda Rivera; Treasurer: Sandra Medin-Vazquez and Secretary: Jessica Harvell. The faculty advisor is: **Professor Judy Jeon-Chapman.**

**Zeta Gamma** chapter at Louisiana College in Pineville, Louisiana had 3 full members at the beginning of this academic year and went on to initiate 2 more. The student members are: President: Lauren Carrier6; VP: Dereck Moncada; Treasurer and Secretary: Iris Tuttle. The chapter wrote: “Not active this year – Stay tuned for next year!” The faculty advisor is: **Professor Cede Barnhart.**



## National Foreign Language Week (NFLW)

### 2014 National Foreign Language Week and Gubernatorial proclamations:

Although it is somewhat early, yet we would like Regional Vice-Presidents as well as chapter advisors to keep in mind the need to approach their respective governors soliciting a proclamation in celebration of National Foreign Language Week March 3-9, 2014, sometime in the middle of January 2104. We will be reminding chapters and Regional VPs mid January.

We have mailed out a copy of the 2014 NFLW poster to all chapters. This will give some guidelines when writing to governors. Would advisors, who have not received a copy, for one reason or another, to let us know so that we can mail out another copy.

The Official Theme for the year 2014 is:

***"Don't Let Learning a Language Slip Through Your Fingers"***

*NFLW will be celebrated March 3 – 9, 2014*



**Encourage students at your college to enter  
one of these contests! The information for each contest is contained in these posters!**

**ALPHA MU GAMMA**  
THE NATIONAL FOREIGN LANGUAGE HONOR SOCIETY

*Announces*  
**The 2015 Foreign Language Week  
POSTER CONTEST**

*Do you have a great idea for a theme and poster design for National Foreign Language Week? If so, consider submitting your idea. Your design could be chosen for the 2015 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!
- Designs may be submitted in one of the following formats:  
Adobe Photoshop format  
.jpeg  
.tif
- Email your poster design to: [amgnat@lacitycollege.edu](mailto:amgnat@lacitycollege.edu)

A prize of \$100 will be awarded to the winner of the contest and he/she will receive a complimentary copy of the poster once it has been produced. Other submissions may be considered for the following year's poster.

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

**Due date for submissions:  
February 15, 2014**

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.

**Mount St. Mary's College**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE & CULTURE**  
FRENCH CHINESE SPANISH JAPANESE ARABIC BENGALI HINDI RUSSIAN PORTUGUESE  
GERMAN JAVANESE KOREAN TURKISH VIETNAMESE TAGALOG MARATHI TAMIL ITALIAN  
URDU POLISH PERSIAN ROMANIAN THAI DUTCH

**2014  
FOREIGN/HERITAGE LANGUAGES  
WRITING CONTEST**  
**Topic: IMPROVING LIFE WITH LANGUAGE**

**Prizes**

1ST PLACE	\$250
2ND PLACE	\$150
3RD PLACE	\$100

**Deadline: February 15, 2014**

You can submit one essay or poem, short story, or script.  
Submissions must be original and your own work.  
Written in a language other than English, but only in one language.  
Submissions must be typed, double-spaced, and between 500-750 words.  
Include your first and last name, school you are attending,  
and your e-mail and phone number.

Submissions can be e-mailed to [mreguant@msmc.la.edu](mailto:mreguant@msmc.la.edu) or mailed to:  
Department of Language & Culture, Foreign/Heritage Language Writing Contest  
Mount St. Mary's College 12001 Chalon Rd. Los Angeles, CA 90049  
<http://www.msmc.la.edu/undergraduate-bachelor-program/language-culture.asp>  
Alpha Mu Gamma - National Foreign Language Week

## Scholarship Winners 2013-2014

### **\$1,000 Goddard, Indovina & Krakowski Scholarships:**

Leah Harrell	Iota Upsilon	West Virginia State University	Institute, WV
Aein (Jennifer) Hope	Nu	UCLA	Los Angeles, CA
Abby Lee Demler	Alpha Omega	Mount Mary College	Milwaukee, WI

### **\$400 James Fonseca Scholarship for the study of Esperanto or Spanish:**

Sandra Parada	Alpha	Los Angeles City College	Los Angeles, CA
---------------	-------	--------------------------	-----------------

# Alpha Mu Gamma

## THE NATIONAL ALPHA MU GAMMA SCHOLARSHIPS

### 2014-2015

The following opportunities for scholarships in the year 2014 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 2014-2015

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>, 2014**

- **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!).

Professor Sally Jo Shulmistras  
Chair, AMG Scholarship Committee  
Department of Modern Foreign Languages  
Anderson University  
1100 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Anderson, IN 46012-3495

e-mail: [sjshulmistras@anderson.edu](mailto:sjshulmistras@anderson.edu)

\*\*\*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)

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 2014, 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. *Preference 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 2014-2015 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).

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.

.....

.....

.....

.....

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

.....

.....

.....

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

.....

.....

.....

.....

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 2014**

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?

.....

.....

.....

3. What strong intellectual interests does the student have?

.....

.....

.....

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

.....

.....

.....

5. Has the student any demonstrated outstanding achievements?

.....  
.....  
.....

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

.....  
.....  
.....

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.

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

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

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Full Name: (Print or Type):

Signature:

Position:

Institution Address:

(Form: A-1209-11B)



**Alpha Mu Gamma  
XXXIV NATIONAL CONVENTION  
“Teaching World Languages in the 21st Century:  
Challenges and Innovations”  
September 27 – 29, 2013  
Hosted by Theta Upsilon chapter  
Elmhurst College (Elmhurst, Illinois)**



Executive Council members



Executive Council meeting



Dr. Earl Thompson's presentation on the history of Alpha Mu Gamma



Dr. Sally Shulmistras presents a plaque to outgoing National President, Dr. Eileen Wilkinson



Dr. Beatriz Gómez-Acuña is announced as the new National President.



Attendees listen to a presentation



Grupo Marimba Ixchel -Friday Night's dinner entertainment



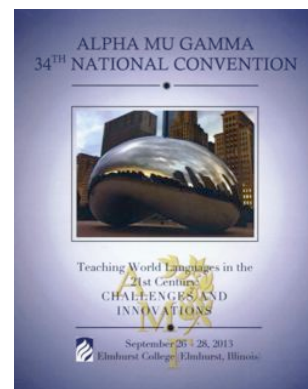
Dinner Buffet

**To view many more photos,  
with descriptions,  
please click on this link  
(or copy/paste to your browser)**

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.487252151372227&type=1>



A group photo of attendees after the Farewell Luncheon



Below is an article published in the Jul 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, issue of the prestigious and widely read weekly magazine ... *The Economist*. It is a review of a book entitled: “*The Story of Spanish*” by Jean-Benoît Nadeau and Julie Barlow. We believe that the article would be of an interest to teachers of Spanish as well as of other foreign languages.

## The rise of Spanish

### Hats off

**Spanish has more native speakers than any language other than Mandarin. Yet its success could not have been foreseen**

THE Iberian peninsula was conquered and settled many times, but only one of those conquests was a long-term linguistic success. The languages of the Celts and the Iberians left little mark on Spain. The Phoenicians were no more successful, although they bequeathed a memorable nickname to posterity: *I-shepan-ha*, “land of hyraxes” (more familiar as *Hispania*). The Romans had better luck. Their soldiers’ and settlers’ vulgar Latin (always distinct from the written, classical kind) spread to the masses.

The overrunning of Spain by Germanic-speaking Goths failed to root out that rustic Latin. Nor did the long-term Muslim conquest of “al-Andalus”, beginning in 711 and continuing until the fall of Granada to Christian monarchs in 1492. Arabic gave many words to the local Castilian, but never replaced it. Nor was it ever obvious that Castilian would one day become Spanish. Of the kingdoms that reconquered Spain for Christianity, Castile was one of the least important. Neighbouring Asturias and Navarre were originally much bigger. But Castile’s place astride the pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela helped it grow richer and more important, and after its merger with León it leapfrogged the others to lead the reconquest.

This and much more is recounted with good cheer in “*The Story of Spanish*”, a popular history by Jean-Benoît Nadeau and Julie Barlow, a Canadian couple who have written a similar history of French. Combining academic research with interviews on their travels, they tell the story of how a modest northern Iberian dialect became mother tongue to over 400m people.

They have collected some interesting linguistic titbits. Castilian was probably influenced by Old Basque. Old Basque had no f-sound, which is why Latin *ferrum* became *ferro* in Italian and Portuguese but *hierro* in Spanish. The simple sound system is probably a result of Castilian’s quick rise, when many speakers would have learned it as a second language, shaving away complexity. And the straightforward writing system (almost any word can be read aloud accurately by anyone who knows the rules) is the result of unusually early and sustained efforts to impose a logic on the language. King Alfonso X (1221–84) vigorously promoted scholarly translations into Castilian as well as Latin—a rarity in his time. And Antonio de Nebrija (1441–1522) wrote a Spanish grammar (in Latin), the first systematic treatment of a vernacular European language.

The development of the language was uneven. Even at the height of Spanish power in Europe from 1500 to the mid-17th century, Spanish never became as prestigious as French or English would later. It never even conquered its own peninsula: Portuguese and Galician (a close relative), Basque and Catalan are vibrant to this day.

In the Americas, it would take centuries for Castilian to become universal. The Jesuits, keen linguists, preferred to preach in Nahuatl, Quechua and Guaraní, the better to convert the natives (and to increase their own influence). But Spain expelled them from the Americas in 1767 and tightened its grip on the colonies over the 18th century. This strengthened the position of Spanish, while ultimately stoking the Latin American revolutions of the early 19th century.

The official tongue of nearly two dozen countries, Spanish is one of the most important languages in history—but it punches far below its weight. Writers like Jorge Luis Borges, Gabriel García Márquez and Mario Vargas Llosa have done well at high culture, and low culture from salsa to schlocky soap operas are popular exports. But Spain began its decline early and Latin America stagnated under dictatorship for much of the post-colonial period. Spanish now lags far behind its close rival, French, in diplomatic use. More patents are filed in German, which has far fewer speakers. And Spanish is widely learned as a foreign language in just three countries—Brazil, the United States and France, all of which border on the Hispanophone world.

Although it is a single language, Spanish varies considerably. This befuddles advertisers who would aim to sell to the entire Spanish-speaking world, like the shampoo-maker who discovered that *cabello chino* (“Chinese hair”) means curly hair in almost all Latin America save Ecuador, where it means straight hair.

The official language academies of the various Spanish-speaking countries are now working together to smooth out the most disruptive differences and create a kind of “general Spanish”. If this linguistic bonhomie is accompanied by economic and political co-operation, Spanish can look forward to a bright 21st century.

# 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 :

**Sally Shulmistras** (Anderson University, Anderson, Indiana. Iota Theta 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** (Cottery 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:****Dr. Frank Triplett** (Mount Union College, Ohio, Theta Nu chapter)**[24] US Virgin Islands:** **[VACANT]**

If any chapter advisor would be interested in filling one of the Regional 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.*