

Tuesday, Aug 29, 2017

OU wins fourth straight Best Chapter Award from national political science honor society

For the fourth consecutive year – and sixth of the last seven years – the national political science honor society Pi Sigma Alpha (PSA) has recognized its Oakland University chapter, Nu Omega, with a Best Chapter Award.

The award is given to chapters that are exceptionally active in their universities and communities, and exhibit high levels of energy and creativity in furthering the goals of PSA. Oakland was one of only four schools with enrollments between 15,000 and 25,000 students selected to receive a Best Chapter Award.

Terri Towner, associate professor of political science and Nu Omega's faculty adviser, said the chapter is coming off one of its busiest academic years, owing to the 2016 presidential elections. The chapter held debate watch parties and election-related events; handed out free pocket U.S. Constitutions in honor of Constitution Day, Sept. 17; participated in the **Michigan Truth Squad** event and held a talk on terrorism, as part of its ongoing Elephant in the Room series. Members also vied with the OU History department to collect the most donations for the Hope Hospitality and Warming Center in Pontiac and attended the **2016 Campaign Roundup** at the International Technology Academy in Pontiac.



Nu Omega members are shown at the chapter's 2017 induction ceremony.

"Last year, the leadership expressed interest in involving more of the surrounding community and we felt that these events achieved this," Towner said. "We hope to continue to build ties with Pontiac, Auburn Hills, and Rochester Hills."

This year, Nu Omega has already scheduled several events, including the Elephant in the Room series, a documentary film watch event, a Fall mixer and a career event featuring Nu Omega alums. The chapter's new leaders, President Ryan Dempsey, Vice President Kate Hubbell, Treasurer Abby Brown and Secretary Katie Luongo, are energized to move the Chapter forward into 2017-2018 academic year.

"Our department is full of bright and ambitious students, many of whom have gone on to represent Oakland University well in further study or prestigious careers outside of academia, and we are in the position to foster the development of future scholars and well-rounded professionals," Dempsey said. "We seek to develop a collaborative environment among the students and faculty through undergraduate research, public service and philanthropy."

The chapter inducted 40 members for the 2016-2017 year, the third-largest number of new members since it was chartered in 1983.

In addition, the chapter continues to host the Pi Sigma Alpha **Undergraduate Journal of Politics**, which publishes outstanding undergraduate research from around the country on a bi-annual basis. The journal is operated entirely by undergraduate students from the host university, who review, edit and produce the journal.

For being named a 2016 Best Chapter, Nu Omega received a \$500 honorarium and a certificate from the national PSA organization. **Pi Sigma Alpha** is the only honor society for college-level political science students in the U.S.

To learn more about programs and opportunities in OU's Department of Political Science, visit oakland.edu/polisci.

