

Tuesday, Oct 25, 2016

Oakland University establishes Hispanic Honor Society chapter, welcomes new members

Nine Oakland University students were inducted Oct. 18 into **Sigma Delta Pi**, the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society, which recently established a new chapter on the university's Rochester campus.

"The purpose of having a chapter of Sigma Delta Pi on our campus is to encourage students to remain in the department, take advanced courses in Spanish, and maintain a high GPA," said **Dr. Cecilia Saenz-Roby**, associate professor of Spanish with the university's **Department of Modern Languages and Literatures**.

"Honor and acknowledgment through election to membership in a renowned national society can be a significant incentive."

Established on Nov. 14, 1919 at the University of California Berkley by a graduate student named Ruth Barnes, the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society currently has over 594 chapters, 368 of which are considered active.

In order to qualify for membership, students must have completed at least three years, or the equivalent, of college Spanish, including at least four semester hours of a third-year course in Hispanic literature or Hispanic culture or civilization.

"Their grades in all Spanish courses must average at least 3.0 and they must have a 3.20 cumulative GPA," Saenz-Roby said. "In addition, students must show genuine interest in things Hispanic and be of good moral character."

This year's inductees include:

- * Chad Samson (President);
- * McKenzie LaLonde (Vice-President);
- * Amber Bush (Secretary);
- * Rachel Williams (Treasurer);
- * Kristine Andreski;
- * Timothy Gielow;
- * Erika Lesniak;
- * Kelsey Margetic;
- * Sam Schlenner.

"Establishing a chapter of Sigma Delta Pi on campus took several months of paperwork and continuous communication with the authorities of the national society," said Saenz-Roby, who will serve as the chapter's faculty adviser.

"Now that the OU chapter is established, its members are working nonstop to help the community. They have already collected school supplies for 'La Casa Amiga' and are organizing a coat fundraiser for the community of Pontiac."

Saenz-Roby, along with Drs. **Adolfo Campoy-Cubillo**, associate professor of Spanish; Alan Epstein, special instructor of Political Science; **Henri Gooren**, associate professor



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Sigma Delta Pi, the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society which recently established a new chapter on the university's Rochester campus, hosted an induction ceremony on Oct. 18.

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of Anthropology; **Aldona Pobutsky**, associate professor of Spanish; were inducted as honorary members of the new chapter during the Oct. 18 ceremony.