



## NATIONAL OFFICERS:

Gary Hodge, President

Annette Stewart, Vice President for Internal Affairs

Mary Ellen Lewis, Vice President for Expansion

Helen Tran, Western Regional Director

Bill Crane, Central Regional Director

Natasha Ghatak, Eastern Regional Director

- Policy Board: Betsy Brasher, Chair
- Gary Hodge
- Eric Lui

Sandra Finley, Executive Director

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**Note:** e-mail addresses are listed with the individual letters. See last page for job descriptions.

# News from Phi Chi Theta Fraternity Headquarters!

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## Letters from your National Officers!

### Your President

Greetings and welcome to the first of what I hope will be many editions of the Phi Chi Theta National Executive Council Newsletter. This newsletter is the brainchild of our National Vice Presidents, out of our desire to increase communication between the National Office and the membership. Increasing the amount of communication from the national office is one of our main focuses this year. Please read on to find out interesting and useful information from each of the national officers.

Speaking of national officers, you may be aware that when we left the national meeting in Memphis, we had two vacancies on our national boards. We did not have an Eastern Regional Director nor did we have the appointed member of the Executive Policy Board. I am pleased to announce that we have filled both of those positions.

Natasha Ghatak was nominated for the position of Eastern Regional Director and was unanimously approved by the Executive Council on September 10, 2008. Natasha is a 2006 graduate of the Alpha Mu Chapter at the University of Maryland. She currently works as the Assistant Controller for the Bethesda Suites Marriott in Bethesda, Maryland. In the near future, she will receive her orientation and training as a regional director. She will shortly start to visit and communicate with the chapters of the Eastern Region.

Eric Lui has accepted an appointment to serve as a member of the Executive Policy Board on September 15, 2008. The Executive Policy Board consists of the Immediate Past National President, current National President and a former national officer appointed by the National President. The Executive Policy Board runs the

day-to-day business side of the fraternity on behalf of the Executive Council. Eric is a former Eastern Regional Director and National Vice President of Expansion. Eric lives and works in New York City.

Please refer to the web site: [www.phichitheta.org](http://www.phichitheta.org) for the complete biography on Natasha, Eric and the entire National Board.

Although we have filled all of the national positions, we are always looking for dedicated alumni to serve at the national level. If you or anyone you know wants to get involved nationally with Phi Chi Theta, please contact me.

I wish you all the best of luck in the coming year. If any national officer can be of help to you, please let us know.

*Gary Hodge*  
National President

[president@phichitheta.org](mailto:president@phichitheta.org)



“Expansion starts with you.”

“Grow the fraternity for the future.”

## Vice President of Internal Affairs

Dear Collegiates and Alumni!  
Hope this finds you well and ready for the New Year!

First and foremost, I would like to state how excited I am to be the newly-elected National Vice President of Internal Affairs. I enjoyed the Memphis National Conference meeting and enjoyed meeting many dedicated collegiate, alumni and advisors who support Phi Chi Theta and our mission. Through my new position, I do hope to make a difference through

assisting our regional directors in supporting our current chapters with new growth and strength. I also wish to promote the growth of Phi Chi Theta through expansion of new collegiate and alumni chapters.

I am excited about the upcoming Regional conferences and do ask that you review the dates and plan to attend. These are great opportunities to meet as a team and learn new strategies for your chapter. I do hope to attend as many Regional conferences as possible to meet many more of

you. Thanks again for your support of Phi Chi Theta and I look forward to working with you all.

Best regards,

*Annette Stewart*

Vice President of Internal Affairs

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## Retention and Expansion are extremely important!

### Vice President of Expansion

Once a Phi Chi Theta, always a Phi Chi Theta. Should a member who has been a Phi Chi Theta for 52 years, step up to the plate and volunteer to be the Vice President for Expansion? Note: It is Interim Vice President. This position should be reserved for “young” alumni. However, having said that, “I do believe that I have a rapport with the collegiates and until a Vice President for Expansion is appointed, I will do my best to make you proud.

I do have an advantage in this position. For 31 years, I held

a position in the College of Business, University of Colorado Denver. I established the collegiate chapter there and served as the adviser for Gamma Iota.

Remember all active Phi Chi Theta are members of the Expansion team. If you have any leads for new chapters, let me know. Is there an University near your chapter where you could make a contact. I will follow up on any leads.

Retention is also important. Your first contact for any questions regarding your collegiate chapter is the Vice President of Internal Affairs. However, I will be

working with her on retention matters.

It is also important that Sandra Finley, Executive Director and your Regional Director are also the first contacts.

The Executive Council will have a team concept, working together to get things done. You, collegiate and alumni members, are very much part of our team. We will have many accomplishments in the 2008-2009 year, with your support.

*Mary Ellen Lewis*

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## Central Regional Director

We have a wonderful opportunity this year to build on the past success of Phi Chi Theta and to enhance and grow the fraternity for the future. At the national meeting, there was a resounding request from each chapter for increased communication across Phi Chi Theta. In response to your request, we have moved quickly to provide both actives and alumni with the systems needed to foster a higher level of communication across the fraternity.

Many of you have visited the new Central Region website

and blog which serves as the main communication source for the Central Region. We are currently in the process of adding each chapter's Executive Board to our newly-created Google group which will act as a file-sharing tool and discussion board between chapters. I will also be working with chapters to coordinate chapter visits and periodic Skype video conference calls in the future.

Please don't forget to join the new Phi Chi Theta Facebook as well.

In addition, some of my future plans include creating a Phi Chi Theta Board of Alumni Advisers comprised of distinguished alumni to assist with the development and

networking activities of the fraternity. My vision is to build a strong web of friendships and business contacts across the nation for actives and alumni to draw on for social enjoyment and professional guidance.

I look forward to working closely with each and every one of you over the next two years. Please do not hesitate to call or email me about the above or anything that is on your mind, the fraternity or your chapter.

*Bill Crane*

CentralDirector@phichitheta.org

## Western Regional Director

I am honored to say that I will be serving as your Western Regional Director for 2008-2010. This will be my second term serving as a National Officer. I have been part of Phi Chi Theta for many years. I graduated from Sam Houston State University in May 2005 and was a member of Beta Theta Chapter. I was the chapter's secretary from 2004-2005. In Spring 2005, I became the Assistant Western Regional Director and served my first term as Western Regional Director in 2004-2006. I am currently a retail banker for Woodforest National Bank in Brenham, Texas.

We just returned from the 2008 National Conference in Memphis and everyone had a great time. I would like to thank everyone who attended the National Conference. The Western Region was well represented with a delegate from every chapter. Thank you for your confidence in me and for allowing me to serve another term as your Regional Director. I am pleased to announce that we have two Assistant Western Regional Directors to assist us with our goals this term: David Casey and Monica Connor.\* Their help is greatly appreciated and will be needed since we have a busy year planned. Our delegates requested that we have the Western Regional Meeting in January 2009 in Austin, Texas. It was thought that

it would be a good idea to change the date to see if it will fit the member's schedule better, particularly the host chapter, Delta Mu Chapter of the University of Texas at Austin.

Now that your chapter is back in school and holding meetings, send in your active member list to the Executive Director and to me.

As always, you will be able to reach me via e-mail or phone at any time. Please feel free to contact me for any reason. I am here to help you.

*Helen Tran*

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\*David Casey graduated from Texas State University and was a member of the Delta Omicron Chapter. David is working in public relations. He is currently a member of the Houston Alumni Chapter and is the Editor of the *Iris*.

Monica Connor recently graduated from the University of North Texas at Denton in December 2007 and was a vice president of the of the Alpha Nu Chapter. Monica is working in Land Acquisitions for Skorburg Company in Dallas, Texas. She is currently a member of the Dallas Alumni Chapter. During her free time, Monica enjoys coaching her brother's basketball team.

## Executive Director

We are gearing up at the National office for a very successful year. We have just returned from the 2008 National Chapter Meeting — our 40th Chapter Meeting — held in Memphis, Tennessee. One of the highlights of the meeting for me was the Awards night. Bill Rhodes, CEO of AutoZone was inducted as our National Honorary Member. He spoke about how important giving back to his community was to him. That is exactly what our new officers are doing. We have a great balance of experienced dedicated officers and new officers that are

excited — all of them dedicated to serving the members of Phi Chi Theta.

It was with great personal pleasure to see Gary Hodge (Philadelphia Alumni Chapter) and Mary Ellen Lewis (Denver Alumni Chapter) receive the Alumni Achievement Award and Fran Spencer (Chicago Alumni Chapter) and Betsy Brasher (Alumni-at-Large) receive the Alumni Hall of Fame Award. These alumni have given tirelessly to our Fraternity and to the Phi Chi Theta Educational Foundation. They are all so deserving of this recognition.

And my favorite part was to see our chapters recognized with certificates and cash prizes for accomplishing the requirements of the new Awards Program. You will be hearing more about the program this semester from Annette Steward, our new Vice President of Internal Affairs. I would like to see all of our Chapters receive recognition at the Regional Meetings in 2009 and the National Meeting in 2010.

*Saundra Finley*

ExecutiveDirector@phichitheta.org



*From left to right: Annette Stewart, Helen Tran, Bill Crane, Gary Hodge, Mary Ellen Lewis, Betsy Brasher and Saundra Finley.*

## NATIONAL OFFICERS

**National President:** The National President shall be the chief executive officer of the Fraternity, and shall provide at meetings of the National Chapter and Executive Council. This officer shall have the power to approve all payments, sign all charts, issue calls for special meeting of the National Chapter, issue calls for meetings of the Executive Council, appoint all committees and supervise all committees. These duties may be delegated as the National President sees fit.

The National President shall serve as a member of the Executive Policy Board, one of the Fraternity's official representative to the Professional Fraternity Association, and as a Trustee of the Phi Chi Theta Educational Foundation.

**National Vice President of Internal Affairs:** The National Vice President of Internal Affairs shall supervise the activities of the Regional Directors, conduct officer training for incoming Regional Directors, develop professional programs for collegiate and alumni chapters, administer the programs for the Alumni Achievement Award and Alumni Hall of Fame and to assist the National Vice President of Expansion to activate or reactivate chapters, and perform other duties, as directed by the National President. This National Vice President of Internal Affairs shall be first in order of succession in case of the inability of the National President to serve.

**National Vice President for Expansion:** The National Vice President for Expansion shall be responsible for activating and reactivating chapters. This officer will identify and pursue opportunities for establishing chapters, attend pre-petition visits and conduct chapter installation and reactivating ceremonies. The National Vice President of Expansion shall be second in order of succession in case of the inability of the National President to serve.

**Regional Directors:** Regional Directors shall serve as the National Chapter liaison to the Local Chapters in their respective areas. These officers shall appoint and supervise the Assistant Regional director in their respective region. These offices shall visit each chapter in their region at least once during the term between National Chapter Meetings; plan and conduct regional meetings, publish at least one newsletter per semester; monitor and advise chapters, contact chapters regarding financial obligations and reports due; and maintain contact with the National Vice President of Internal Affairs.

**Immediate Past National President:** This officer shall serve as chairman of the Executive Policy Board and render such service to the Fraternity as may be requested by the National President.

**Ex-Officio National Officers:** The Editor of the Fraternity's magazine (who is appointed by the Executive Council) and the Executive Directory (who is employed by the Fraternity) shall serve as ex-officio officers of the National Chapter and the Executive Council. They shall have a voice, but not vote, at all meetings of the bodies on which they serve.

*Thank you, National Officers who served in the 2006—2008 biennial.*

*Betsy Brasher, Immediate Past National President*

*Lisa Shumway, Past National Vice President of Expansion*

*David Durham, Past National Vice President of Alumni*

*Abby Lieberman, Central Regional Director*