

Pi  
Lambda  
Theta

# NewsLetter

International Honor Society and Professional Association in Education

April/May 2009  
Vol. 53, No. 6

## Northridge Area, Delta Kappa Chapters Eye National Board Challenges

PLT President **Liz Douglass** installed PLT's newest chapter, Northridge Area Chapter (Far West Region V), in a ceremony held April 7 on the campus of California State U.-Northridge. Dean Michael E. Spagna of CSUN's college of education keyed the ceremony, which was followed by a reception held at the home of Dr. Janice Friedel.

**Mark Hummer**, Northridge Area president, explains the origins of the new chapter, whose "older sibling," Delta Kappa/California State U.-Northridge Chapter, is just two years old. The founding members of Northridge Area Chapter, Hummer says, were initiated into Delta Kappa Chapter. However, upon graduation, they discovered that university rules restrict full alumni participation in campus organizations. In response, local Thetans/CSUN grads began planning the new Northridge Area Chapter as a way to continue their link with PLT and

Delta Kappa Chapter. "The idea is that we will work in partnership with Delta Kappa, providing continuity for an organization that will by nature experience major changes on an annual basis," says President Hummer, referring to the loss campus chapters incur each year through graduation and transfer.

Delta Kappa Chapter, whose most-recent initiation classes have numbered among the largest ever for a PLT chapter, began life as a PLT Direct Honors arrangement with CSUN. President Douglass explains that the synergy between Northridge and Delta Kappa also presents a unique "windfall" benefit for members of both chapters, since CSUN hosts one of the five National Board professional development centers currently in operation. Both chapters will be coordinating with the National Board center to encourage and support members in seeking National Board Certification.



Clifford Hummer

Charter members and guests of PLT's newest chapter, Northridge Area. Top row (l-r): Theresa D. Demus (secretary); Nikki M. Carelli (treasurer); Elizabeth Douglass (PLT International president); Mark L. Hummer (president); Dr. Robert E. Kladifko; Sandra S. Sandor; Dr. Janice Friedel (vice president). Bottom row (l-r): Lisa Shone; Dr. Beverly J. Cabello; Dr. Patricia Streeter; John Z. Rivera.

## 2009 Pacesetters Provide Endowment Stimulus

Defying economic conditions, 90 Pi Lambda Thetans "stepped up" this spring to become 2009 Pacesetters in the annual PLT Educational Endowment fundraising campaign.

### Pi Lambda Theta EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT

*... supporting excellence  
in education*

See page 5 for a complete list of this year's Pacesetter contributors.

Meanwhile, the endowment's committees continued their mission of supporting and enhancing educational achievement with a series of awards and scholarships, adding to the three PLT Research Grants announced in the Feb./Mar. NewsLetter. Notable among the awards is the first grant of the Frances Mottey Beck Middle-School "Ah-Ha" Reading Award, co-sponsored by PLT with the John and Frances Beck

Foundation. The late Dr. Beck, the assistant dean of students in the University of Chicago Graduate School of Education, served as faculty adviser at Lambda/U. of Chicago for more than 35 years. **Mark Zeiler**, a middle-school language arts teacher in Orlando, Fla., is the first recipient of the award. See pp. 3-4 for all of this spring's awardees.



Zeiler

"We are deeply appreciative of our Pacesetters' commitment to education under these circumstances," said **Richard Hays**, endowment chair. "We encourage all Thetans to continue their tradition of support so that the endowment's efforts can continue without interruption."

## From the Executive Director

### “What would National Board Certification do for me?”

An intriguing question arrived in the PLT International Office e-mailbag last month. Jenna (last name withheld) asked, “Being a new graduate, in May, what would National Board Certification do for me? Is that something I should seriously consider, being a hopefully first-time teacher this fall?”



J. Ogden Hamilton

Jenna, we’re happy to answer your question. The short answer is “a whole lot.” National Board Certification is recognized as the highest affirmation of accomplished teaching there is. But it’s not just about something to put on your résumé.

Whether they make it or not, those who go through the process report that it’s a life-changing experience in terms of the command they have over their teaching and their careers. From where we sit, pursuing National Board Certification as soon as it makes sense to do so is a no-brainer. Part of PLT’s mission is to make sure our members know that so they can plan their careers accordingly.

By way of what’s in it for the teacher, the National Board says that National Board Certification:

- Meets most states’ definitions of “highly qualified teacher” under NCLB
- Strengthens teaching practice
- Improves students’ learning according to a vast majority of research
- Advances teaching careers
- Increases financial opportunities in many states and districts
- Provides a portable teaching license in most states
- Contributes to CEU/recertification requirements in some states

That list covers most of the career advantages you could think of. However, less-concrete but more-powerful forces can be observed at work. A lot of people at conferences for teacher-leaders such as this summer’s National Staff Development Council conference in Boston, which PLT is cosponsoring, have observed that National Board Certified Teachers are getting younger—in their mid- to late 20s instead of their 30s, 40s, and 50s. The command that those young teachers radiate is tangible. It’s yet early in their careers, but they are leading the system, not simply trying to survive in it. My sense is that for them, a career in teaching is different from, and more rewarding than, a career in teaching for many others. They won’t be among the staggering percentage of beginning teachers who change careers within the first five years. Seeing that sort of difference, the PLT Board of Directors would be remiss

not to make our members aware of it.

With respect to mechanics and schedule, the timing of going for National Board Certification is usually a function of the mentor structure (if any) in your state. When the time is right, Take One! from the National Board allows a teacher two advantages: the opportunity to put a toe in the water rather than jumping in completely, and the opportunity to put the toe in as soon as it makes sense to do that. To go for full certification a teacher must have three years’ experience—check out the exact language at nbpts.org. Take One! scores can be counted toward full certification, so if the state’s mentor schedule and your own mentors are cool with it, you can use Take One! as a vehicle for accomplishing National Board Certification a year or two before you otherwise could. (Then you can go and tangibly radiate command at teacher-leader conferences. :-)

For the graduate-to-be, PLT can search a National Board database and find which schools in your job-search areas have NBCTs who might be willing to mentor you. That’s by no means a foolproof process, but I believe that other things being equal, a school with NBCTs is likely to be higher on the food chain than one without NBCTs whether or not you end up pursuing National Board Certification. For sure, when the interviewer asks you, “Why did you apply to our school?” and you answer, “I want to pursue National Board Certification: I see that you have NBCTs who might be willing to mentor me, and I assume that you would support me in undertaking the challenge,” you’ll make the sort of impression that everyone strives for in an interview.

I hope I’ve answered your question and inspired you to spend some time at nbpts.org learning how to grab control of your career from the very first position. If you have more questions, just ask.

### Tell Us!

... if you have news to send us about:

- o Professional accomplishment/award
- o Doctoral dissertation
- o Chapter activity or project  
(Please include photo if possible.)

... what we’re doing well or how we could improve: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

My address is:     new     old

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Member No. or Chapter Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

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City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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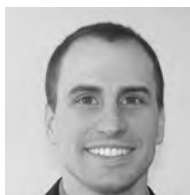
## Spring 2009 Awards

### RESEARCH GRANTS

Pi Lambda Theta Research Grants are awarded semiannually for direct expenses of research in education. A grant proposal can concern an independent project or a part of a larger project, such as a dissertation. Grants are awarded in amounts up to \$2,500.

February 2009 recipients:

#### Jason Petula



Petula

\$2,500, "Elementary Mathematics Intervention"  
*Education:* Ph.D., curriculum and instruction, Pennsylvania State U.; M.S., classroom technology, Wilkes U.; Ed.M., educational administration, Temple U.; B.S., secondary education, Pennsylvania State U.

*Current position:* Director of Mathematics and Science (K–12), Abington Heights School District, Clarks Summit, Pa.

#### Sarah L. Sparrow



Sparrow

\$2,500, "An Analysis of Skills-based Health Education in Secondary Schools"  
*Current position:* part-time faculty member, Boston U. School of Education, Physical Education, Health and Coaching Program  
*Education:* doctorate in education,

Boston U. School of Education Curriculum and Teaching Department, specializing in health education (expected date of graduation, May 2009); master's degree in physical education, health education, and coaching, Boston U.; B.S. in athletic training, U. of Connecticut

#### Deborah N. Kittrell-Mikell

\$500, "Implications of High School Principals' Archetype and the Success of Obtaining Adequate Yearly Progress"  
*Current position:* Coordinator, Student Services Center, College of Health and Human Sciences, Georgia Southern U.  
*Education:* doctoral program in educational leadership, Georgia Southern U.; education specialist degree in counselor education, GSU; master of education in adult and vocational education, GSU; master of education in higher education student services, GSU; B.S. in education, GSU

### FRANCES MOTTEY BECK READING AWARD

This award recognizes a middle-school educator or team of educators for designing an effective, replicable program that advances reading and literacy. The award, underwritten by the John and Frances Beck Foundation, is co-sponsored by Pi Lambda Theta. Recipients receive a cash award of \$2,000.

2009 recipient: **Mark Zeiler**

*Current position:* 8th grade language arts teacher, Corner Lake Middle School, Orlando, Florida. Fourth year teaching middle school language arts.  
*Education:* B.S. in food and resource economics, U. of Florida. Professional teaching certificate with middle grades integrated 5–9 area of specialization.



Zeiler

### THELMA JEAN BROWN CLASSROOM TEACHER AWARD

The Thelma Jean Brown Classroom Teacher Award honors a teacher for accomplishments at a school that is not well-supported financially. The award, established in 1997, is funded by Thelma Brown, a career classroom teacher and a life member of Pi Lambda Theta. The award includes a cash payment of \$500.

2009 recipient: **Ngoc-Thuy Nguyen**

*Education:* M.A. in ESL, U. of Hawaii; B.A. in ESL, summa cum laude, Hawaii Pacific U.; W. P. Davidson High School (Mobile, Ala.), valedictorian  
*Current position:* English teacher, Farrington High School

### TOBIN SORENSON PHYSICAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

The Tobin Sorenson Physical Education Scholarship is awarded to an outstanding student who intends to pursue a career at the K–12 level as a physical education teacher or similar professional focusing on teaching the knowledge and use of the human body. The scholarship, which consists of a tuition payment of \$1,000, was established in 1999 through a gift from Barbara Wynne Sorenson to honor the memory of her son.



Oswald

2009 recipients:

#### Stacy L. Oswald

*Education:* undergraduate student, Brigham Young U. (Fall 2005–present)

#### Joshua McReynolds

*Education:* Freed-Hardeman U. (Henderson, Tenn.), Fall 2007–present  
Pursuing a degree in exercise science, minor in business

## Chanel Letice Grant

*Education:* B.S., physical education (exercise science), Old Dominion U., May 2009; planning to pursue doctorate in physical therapy at Old Dominion

### NADEEN BURKEHOLDER WILLIAMS MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

The Nadeen Burkeholder Williams Music Scholarship recognizes an outstanding K–12 teacher pursuing a graduate degree at an accredited college or university. The recipient can either teach music as an independent subject or systematically apply music to another subject. A bequest from Nadeen Burkeholder Williams established the scholarship, a \$1,000 tuition payment, in 1998.

2009 recipients:

#### Vidya Bhat



Bhat

*Education:* Reading specialist M.A., Teachers College, Columbia; B.A. in psychology, U. of Virginia  
*Current position:* reading specialist for grades 2 through 5 in Anne Hutchinson Elementary, Westchester County, N.Y.

#### Kelly Schenbeck Riley



Riley

*Education:* B.A. in teaching and learning with a focus on language, literacy, and culture (degree anticipated June 2009), Ohio State U.; B.M. in music education, summa cum laude, Capital U. Conservatory of Music (Columbus, Ohio)

*Current position:* General and vocal

music teacher, grades K–6, Washington Elementary and Tharp Sixth Grade School, Hilliard, Ohio

### JANYCE YOSHIZAWA EXCELLENCE IN CLASSROOM TEACHING AWARD

The Janyce Yoshizawa Award recognizes outstanding classroom teaching in grades K–6. The award was established by Sumi Y. Makey to honor the memory of her sister, Janyce Yoshizawa, a classroom teacher. The award includes a cash

payment of \$1,000.

2009 recipient: **Karen Ann Taylor**

*Current position:* Middle school art education, Abington Heights School District, Pa.

*Education:* B.S., art education, Ohio State U; M.S., computer education, Wilkes U.



Taylor

## 2009 PACESETTERS

Jean M. Alberti  
Alpha Psi Chapter  
Katherine E. Andre  
Lilly H. Au  
Nathlie A. Badian  
Sandra K. Bender  
Beta Chi Chapter  
Beta Omicron Chapter  
Beta Zeta Chapter  
**Virgie M. Binford\***  
L. Ann Bish  
Janice C. Bizzari  
**Alyce Bolander\***  
Meredith E. Braun  
Cynthia L. Chaklosh  
**Joan B. Christian\***  
Adeline Lavera Coe  
Joan J. Cox  
Grace L. Davies  
Denver Metro Chapter  
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Helen W. Diamond  
Gloria I. Dixon  
**Elizabeth M. Douglass\***  
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Shirley G. DuBois  
Jacquelin Dunnington  
Marlene K. Ebeo  
Nazelie E. Elmassian  
Eva F. Fidler  
Lindsay A. Fiker  
Marilyn E. Flaherty  
Mary Ann Franklin  
Marilyn T. Gaddis  
Wardell E. Graves  
David L. Graziano  
Patricia L. Griffin  
J. Ogden Hamilton  
Hawaii Chapter  
Richard R. Hays  
Mieko H. Higuchi  
Bonnie E. Hirn  
Robert S. J. Hu  
Selma E. Hughes  
Mark L. Hummer  
Venna M. Johnson

Alice S. Jones  
Rita J. Jones  
Grace Kachaturoff  
Carol W. Keenan  
Kenneth L. Keller  
MariLyn L. Khan  
Lynn C. Klein  
M. Frances Klein  
Bernice E. Koglin  
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Irene L. Lidwin  
Marilyn J. Ludwig  
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Linda W. Mew  
Elaine J. Morfogen  
Hiroko Murakami  
**M. Joan Nardi\***  
Ethel Aiko Oda  
Genevieve T. Okinaga  
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Carol M. Sakamoto  
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Elizabeth Topkis  
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Sue A. Tsuda-DeTogni  
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Diane S. Vukovich  
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Barbara J. Walker  
Eiko O. Watanabe  
Jeanne Wickham  
Carol A. Wiggins  
J. L. Wilson  
**Jean G. Wright\***  
Elaine S. Zerveck  
Elaine B. Zseller  
Anonymous (3)

\*Indicates Pacesetter Committee member

## PI LAMBDA THETA EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT DIRECTORS

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### Vice Chairman

Laurie Moses Hines, Western Pennsylvania

### Secretary

Thelma J. Brown, Evansville Area

### Director

Barbara J. Walker, Virginia Area

### Ex Officio

Elizabeth M. Douglass; Shirley G. DuBois; J. O. Hamilton

## Chapter & Member News

**Daniel W. Fullmer**, Ph.D., died February 20 at the age of 86. Over the past decade, he and his spouse, Dr. Janet Ishikawa-Fullmer, have been leaders in endowing funds within the Pi Lambda Theta Educational Endowment, providing money each year for student tuition. One fund supports undergraduates at Grambling State University, another supports graduate students in counseling at the University of Denver, and the third supports interns in the Dean's Leader for the Next Generation postdoctoral program at the University of Hawaii-Manoa.

A native of Illinois, Dr. Fullmer was a Navy veteran of World

War II. He had been a member of the faculties at the University of Oregon and at the University of Hawaii-Manoa, and with his wife he maintained a private practice in psychology. The National Counseling and Guidance Association, the Hawaii Counseling Association, and the governor of Hawaii, among others, had recognized his service with awards. He was noted for his decades of support of Grambling University.

Besides Dr. Ishikawa-Fullmer, he is survived by two sons, four grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter. Another son predeceased him.

### Santa Barbara Area Recognizes UC-Santa Barbara Grad Students

On March 7, the Santa Barbara Area Chapter cited 21 "Promising Educators of 2009," all graduate students in the teacher education department of the U. of California-Santa Barbara. The top five honorees received \$50 awards and free one-year memberships in Pi Lambda Theta. Those five were **Jacqueline Williams, Emily Stewart, Johaan Ryberg, Alice Rocca, and Laurie McAlexander.**

All award recipients have earned grade point averages above 3.5 and received recommendations from one or more faculty members. The top five were selected by Santa Barbara Area Chapter officers, who based their assessments on scholarly achievements and brief statements submitted regarding future goals.

Honorable mentions were awarded to Paola Beletti, Beatrice Claros-Trac, Philip Daniels-Hernandez, Margaux Granat, Jennifer Koepnick, Elizabeth Kowba, Vanessa Marquez, Amanda Michel, Linzey Motter, Francine Pelka, Kelly

Quistad, Daniel Spencer, Joanna Thomas, Lauren Tirador, Alli Wilkins, and Ginna Willers. Those 16 received one-year PLT memberships.



Santa Barbara Area Chapter's "Promising Educators of 2009" gathered outside the UC-Santa Barbara Davidson Library following their initiation March 7.

"We were delighted with the quality of the honorees," said Dr. **Helen Gordon**, Santa Barbara Area president. "They show enthusiasm, idealism, and a sincere desire for excellence in whatever they do." She credited Dr. Ann Lippincott, associate director of the UCSB Teacher Education Department, for facilitating communication among faculty, students, and Pi Lambda Theta officers. She also thanked other faculty members who submitted

recommendations: Maryanna Gray, Laura Hill-Bonnet, Sue Johnson, Emily Kang, Jason Levin, Dennis Naiman, April Regester, Elissa Ross, and Anne Shoemaker.

Anacade Publishing Co. LLC underwrote the award program.

### 2009 EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT COMMITTEES

#### RESEARCH GRANTS COMMITTEE

Raymond R. Lagesse, Ph.D., Beta Xi (chair)  
Ada Puryear Burnette, Florida A&M U.  
Patricia Davis-Wiley, Alpha Xi  
Sandra F. Mobley, Virginia Area  
Connie J. S. Monroe, Gamma Tau  
Nils E. Regnell, U. of New Hampshire  
Edwina C. Richmond, Virginia Area  
Mary M. Shay, U. of No. Colorado-Greeley

#### BECK AWARD COMMITTEE

Dr. Shirley G. DuBois, member at large (chair)  
Trudy Wallace, Lambda  
Winifred Stariha, Lambda

Ray Reutzel, non-member  
Patricia O. Pelletier, member at large

#### AWARDS COMMITTEE

Brown Award  
Yoshizawa Award  
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Robert S. J. Hu, Beta Zeta  
Karen M. Meade, Theta  
Maura J. Mulligan, Alpha Alpha  
Barbara Martin Palmer, Gamma Tau  
Carol H. Riley, Hawaii

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Alyce Bolander, Beta Chi  
Gail C. La Fortune, Sacramento Area  
John Moffett, member at large  
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#### SORENSEN SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

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Marsha L. Berry, Gamma Gamma  
Troy V. McLaughlin, Virginia Area  
Barbara J. Weiskopf, Detroit Area

## Test-drive National Board Certification

Thanks to a collaboration with the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, PLT offers you a fee discount and mentor support for the National Board's "Take One!" program.

### About "Take One!"

Take One! allows you to complete just one of the ten assessment areas of National Board Certification. After the PLT discount, the \$355 fee is only a fraction of the cost of full certification. Your Take One! score can count toward full certification. You'll be on your way to full certification, but with only a modest initial commitment of time and money.

Details available at [pilambda.org](http://pilambda.org)



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## CAREER SERVICES NETWORK

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### PLT Career Partners

More than 1,000 members have volunteered to assist other members with job searches in their geographic areas. Career Partners receive résumés of all appropriate JobMatch participants.

A listing of cities and states that are currently covered appears at [www.pilambda.org](http://www.pilambda.org).

### PLT JobList

This service is available to all PLT members at [www.pilambda.org](http://www.pilambda.org). Employers can list their jobs on-line with JobList at no charge. Supplemental hot links are provided to education job listings on dozens of Web sites.

### PLT JobMatch

**PLT JobMatch** taps Thetan **Career Partners** to help a member's job search. PLT will distribute a member's résumé to the Career Partners in any one of more than 100 U.S. search areas each calendar year FREE. Distribute your résumé to additional search areas for a nominal fee. Find the national list of search areas and register on-line at [www.pilambda.org](http://www.pilambda.org), or call **1-800-487-3411**.

## Pi Lambda Theta EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT

HERE IS MY CONTRIBUTION:

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TELEPHONE

( )

AMOUNT DESIGNATED FOR:

MAIN ENDOWMENT FUND \$

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Lillian and Henry Barry \$

Anna Tracey \$

Janyce Yoshizawa \$

Edna Mae Soper \$

ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

Kathleen McCann \$

Beta Chi Chapter \$

Nadeen B. Williams \$

Tobin Sorenson \$

Bernardo Ramos Ebeo \$

Sylvia and Arlo Vopni \$

Ishikawa/Fullmer \$

Fullmer/Ishikawa (U. Denver) \$

Hawaii Chapter \$

Kara Vaughn Jackson \$

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