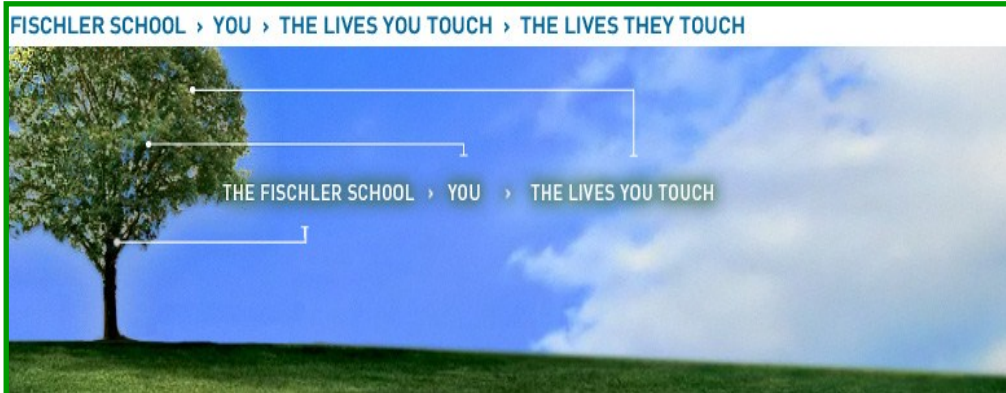




Gamma Shark

Phi Gamma Sigma News Publication

Volume 10, Number 1 Nova Southeastern University Abraham S. Fischler School of Education Winter 2013



This issue:

- President's Message P. 1
- 2012 Induction Ceremony P. 2
- Effective Communication P. 3
- Professional Development P. 4
- Dissertation Spotlight P. 5

WELCOME

The Gamma Shark provides readers with the latest insight, innovation, articles, educational ideas and news. This is an inaugural publication of Phi Gamma Sigma International Professional Doctoral Society of the Abraham S. Fischler School of Education.

Please send contributions and questions for this publication to: phigammasigma@nova.edu

President's Message

Welcome Members,

Phi Gamma Sigma celebrates the academic excellence of outstanding doctoral graduates. The annual PGS Induction ceremony is conducted during the NSU Abraham S. Fischler School of Education commencement weekend. For many, this achievement will provide opportunities to expand professional skills and collaborations.

Members of Phi Gamma Sigma advance educational excellence and share significant contributions to cause a positive ripple effect. The NSU Abraham S. Fischler School of Education facilitates innovative contributions to learning communities around the world through our members and the lives they touch. The new PGS BlackBoard Classroom will connect members for meetings, professional development webinars and symposiums.

The Phi Gamma Sigma Board looks forward to an exciting year serving you and supporting NSU's 2020 vision.

Dr. María Grethel Méndez, '04
Doctoral Enrollment Counselor/Program Professor





Phi Gamma Sigma Ninth Annual Induction Ceremony June 8, 2012

Phi Gamma Sigma is Nova Southeastern University's Abraham S. Fischler School of Education International Professional Society. The Phi Gamma Sigma Induction Ceremony is held to recognize the acceptance of conferred doctoral members to the Fischler School's distinguished professional society.

Members of Phi Gamma Sigma share their skills to improve the quality of life in our communities while expanding educational opportunities for traditional and adult learners.

Since 2003, nearly 800 Abraham S. Fischler School of Education alumni have been inducted into Phi Gamma Sigma. For membership information please go to phigammasigma@nova.edu

Inductees are among an accomplished group of doctoral graduates who have demonstrated their commitment to scholarly leadership. In 1971, Nova Southeastern University offered the first doctoral distance education program in the nation.



Dr. George L. Hanbury, II, President (r)
Dr. H. Wells Singleton, University Dean (l)

This advancement was the forerunner of today's online education phenomenon an instructional method now available at nearly every institution of higher learning.

NSU's 40th Anniversary was celebrated at the PGS 2012 Induction ceremony. Associate Dean Dr. Tara Saltzman honored the presence of three visionaries who have shaped the Fischler School of Education.

Dr. Hanbury, NSU's sixth president, has encouraged all of us to pursue the University's mission of diverse and innovative programming through the core values of: academic excellence, community, diversity, innovation, integrity, opportunity, scholarship/research within a student-centered context.

Since 1987 Dean H. Wells Singleton has led one of the largest education schools in the United States. The Abraham S. Fischler School of Education's highly qualified staff supports of more than 11,000 candidates in undergraduate, master's, educational specialist, and doctoral levels. Dr. Singleton brings vision and enthusiasm to meet the challenges of a global environment. He has been internationally recognized for his leadership, research and scholarship.



(from left to right)

Dr. Alan Cohen, PGS Faculty Advisor
Dr. Tara Saltzman, Associate Dean
Dr. Abraham S. Fischler, President Emeritus
Dr. H. Wells Singleton, University Dean
Dr. María Grethel Méndez, PGS President



Testimonials

Inductees expressed their joy in attending the induction ceremony and one said "this event was the icing on our graduation cake."

Another member renewing her commitment to PGS shared that "the initiation and dinner-dance was absolutely wonderful."

It was noted that the inductees were truly delighted to join PGS and participate in the organization's development.

For more event photos please visit:

www.fischlerschool.nova.edu/phi-gamma-sigma/home



Dr. Abraham S. Fischler
President Emeritus

Our founder, Dr. Abraham S. Fischler, NSU President *Emeritus*, began with a vision of providing access to students pursuing professionalization in both educational leadership and teaching, particularly to traditionally under-represented and under-served students. He supported flexible scheduling and student-centered education.

Today, these principles are considered integral to a high quality educational experience. Dr. Fischler continues to advocate improvements in the American school system by publishing regularly in his online blog, "The Student is the Class."



Phi Gamma Sigma Holiday Dinner and Gathering December 7, 2012

The Phi Gamma Sigma International Professional Society of the Abraham S. Fischler School of Education held a holiday dinner, gathering and presentation at Nova Southeastern University's Faculty Shark Club. South Florida PGS members, friends and supporters enjoyed dinner followed by a presentation by PGS board member Dr. Mark J. Witkind on *Effective Business Communications*. Mark was a charter class graduate of the Doctoral Program for Speech–Language Pathology and led a focused discussion on the benefits of effective communication for educators, administrators and community based professionals.

In 2004, Dr. Witkind founded and became chief executive officer of Witkind and Associates. His practice is dedicated to effective business communication strategies for educators, health care professionals, business owners, and corporate executives. Attendees shared examples of communication strategies and participated in skill-expanding activities to promote effective communication platforms in the work setting.

In the spirit of giving during the holiday season, Phi Gamma Sigma partnered with employees of the Abraham S. Fischler School of Education to donate toys to the Emergency Assistance Service Effort (EASE) Foundation. These donations helped bring holiday joy to families in southwest Broward County. This outstanding event was coordinated by PGS Board member Dr. Lisa J. Fuller and set a benchmark for future gatherings. The evening highlighted our members' professional accomplishments and provided significant support for life-long learning.



Highlights from Dr. Witkind's Presentation

Develop Effective Business Communication

- Review management policies
- Promote mutual understanding and respect
- Determine the needs of each setting.
- Develop separate needs outlines for management and employees

Attributes of Effective Communication

- Regulate vocal volume, breathing and respiration
- Use effective vocal volume and breath support while communicating
- Body posture, image and awareness improve
- Vary rate of speech according to specific work tasks



Dr. Mark J. Witkind
CEO, Witkind and Associates



2013 Induction and Commencement Ceremonies

Phi Gamma Sigma Induction Ceremony

June 16, 2013 at 12:00 p.m.

Abraham S. Fischler School of Education Graduate Commencement Ceremony

June 16, 2013 at 4:00 p.m.

Professional Development Webinar Series in BlackBoard Elluminate

The Phi Gamma Sigma International Professional Society extends the NSU-FSE experience by promoting academic excellence, a supportive school culture and effective professional development. This member-centered initiative will encourage mentor-mentee connections, extend leadership skills and participation in faculty-guided educational research committees.

In cooperation with the NSU Omega Theta Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi Educational Honor Society, Phi Gamma Sigma members may participate in monthly professional development webinars through the KDP Shark KNX Mentoring Committee. This web-based community of advocates meet monthly on the third Thursday 8-9 pm EST in BlackBoard Elluminate.

The committee promotes academic excellence by connecting NSU candidates, alumni and faculty to conduct, publish and present educational research. Expected outcomes include increases in student retention, graduation rates, alumni engagement and the value of our degrees. Please help NSU become one of the "Top 100" U.S. Universities by joining this effort.

Mentoring Committee members will participate in a variety of activities including monthly Blackboard Elluminate Professional Development webinars. The 2013-14 presentation schedule is developing and PGS members interested in presenting in the Professional Development Webinar Series should contact us at phigammasig@nova.edu

The Mentoring Committee Chairperson and PGS Board Member Dr. Joe Perez (left), earned a Masters in Business Administration and Doctorate in Education at NSU. He applies his organizational leadership skills as the Tampa District Manager for the Florida Division of Hotels and Restaurants, a state government regulatory agency responsible for regulating the hospitality industry within the state.

Dr. Perez has over twenty-three years of progressive leadership in law enforcement and government regulatory experience at the local and state level. Additionally, he is an adjunct faculty member at two major universities teaching undergraduate and graduate level business courses. Joe is a life-long learner committed to transforming the lives of those he touches by encouraging individuals to pursue their dreams and aspirations.



"Make Money Teaching Online" Presentation Highlights

- Start local and be flexible
- Personal and professional goals determine income
- Continued growth of online education
- Develop instructor reputation
- Join institutions selectively
- Emphasize professional skills in CV



The March 21, 2013 Professional Development Webinar was presented by outstanding Nova Southeastern University Alum Dr. Jim Mirabella (left). He shared insights from his book "Make Money Teaching Online" and provided a signed copy to one lucky participant. This webinar facilitated members' skills to gain employment and promote

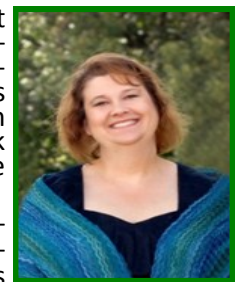
effective online instruction. Dr. Mirabella shared professional development and collaboration strategies then invited participants to join his professional network.

Dr. Mirabella is Assistant Professor of Operations Management and Statistics at Jacksonville University, an online professor with a few universities, private consultant in survey design, research, and analysis. He has over 25 years of experience teaching, in addition to nine years in the private sector, three years in educational administration and nine years serving proudly in the U.S. Air Force.

"Leadership Attributes"

The Professional Development Webinar on May 16, 2013 was presented by Dr. Jerri Arnold-Cook (right). Participants Explored Leadership Attributes through the Len's of the Lakota Indian Nation via Joseph Marshall III's book Leadership Lessons of Crazy Horse: The Power of Four

Dr. Arnold-Cook is dedicated to developing inclusive educational communities and developmental opportunities for college students and higher education professionals. After earning a Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts Degree in Communication from Missouri State University, she recently completed the requirements for a Doctor of Education in Higher Education degree from Nova Southeastern University in March 2013.



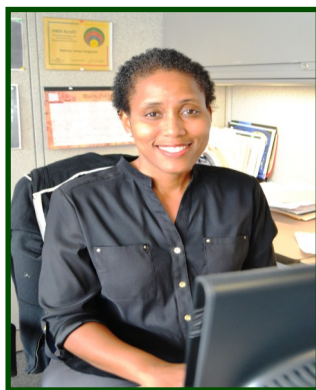


Research Opportunities for PGS Members

The NSU Abraham S. Fischler School of Education Graduate Teacher Education Program welcomes Phi Gamma Sigma members to participate in research and scholarship activities that accelerate improvements in our profession. Several research initiatives seek committee members to plan, conduct and publish research findings in peer reviewed journals and present at conferences. For research committee membership opportunities in the following categories please contact us at: phigamma@nova.edu

- * Computer Skills for Seniors
- * Memory Enhancement
- * Mentoring
- * Secondary Social Studies
- * Writing Improvement Skills

Phi Gamma Sigma Dissertation Spotlight Series



The Phi Gamma Sigma Dissertation Spotlight Series provides members an opportunity to share advances in educational research. Highlighting the March 2013 Steering Committee meeting, PGS Board Member Dr. Natolyn Jones-Ferguson presented Student and Faculty Perceptions: The Impact of Synchronous Online Software as an Interactive Tool in a Web-Based College Course. Dr. Ferguson Jones demonstrated her valuable research through an engaging presentation onsite and to members attending online through BlackBoard Elluminate. She examined the role of instructors as facilitators and proficiency using synchronous technology to enhance student's online educational experience.

Currently, Dr. Jones-Ferguson is a Research Associate at the NSU Abraham S. Fischler School of Education overseeing implementation of federal, state, and university regulations to ensure the protection of the rights and welfare of human participants in research. She received a Bachelor's Degree in Communications/Public Relations from Austin Peay State University and a Master's degree in Higher Education Administration from the University of Mississippi. Her academic and professional interests are collegiate student development, distance education, and conflict resolution. PGS members interested in presenting for the Dissertation Spotlight Series may contact us at phigamma@nova.edu

Meetings

Please join us each month in the Main Building of the Nova Southeastern University North Miami Beach campus on the 2nd Thursday from 4-5 pm.

Members at a distance may attend meetings via conference call or online through BlackBoard Elluminate by registering at: phigamma@nova.edu

For additional information about Phi Gamma Sigma please go to: www.fischlerschool.nova.edu/phi-gamma-sigma/home

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