



PLT Begins an "Excellence Adventure"

PLT's Project Excellence, unveiled in September, culminates more than a decade of adapting PLT's tradition of PLT's traditional high academic standards to recognize excellence in the education field. The ProjEx database on the PLT website—searchable by subject, key word, and academic level (teacher, administrator/staff, higher ed)—is creating a one-stop portal for major awards and honors for excellence in precollegiate education.



Said PLT Executive Director J. Ogden Hamilton, "Project Excellence is the sort of service to education PLT is

supposed to provide. It's a win-win-win: the award sponsor's commitment is spotlighted, the award's greater visibility leads to a greater number of nominations, and award recipients, past and future, receive a waiver of the customary eligibility requirements for PLT membership."

Thetans are encouraged to suggest any additional awards and to try out the Project Excellence search feature. "Think of someone you might nominate for an award and then search the database for appropriate awards," Hamilton said. "And be sure to tell your PTO about the website. In the hands of parents, Project Excellence will be a powerful tool for focusing attention on excellence and recognizing deserving educators."

Large Gift + 349 Campaign Contributions Aid Endowment's Cause

The PLT Educational Endowment announced in early October that its 2007 fund drive has concluded after raising nearly \$15,000 from 349 donors. The figures include contributions from 153 Benefactors who each gave \$100 or more, with another \$4,480 from 196 smaller contributions. For a list of all contributors in the past 12 months, see pages 6-7. "This year the support from our

totaling more than \$6,000, were recommended by the Research Grants Committee this summer:

- **Sara Chandler Trotman Womack** (U. of Georgia), "A Comparison of the Effects of Orff-Schulwerk and Traditional Music Instruction on Selected Elements of Music Achievement in Third, Fourth, and Fifth Grade Students"
- **Catherine L. Packer** (Assistant Professor, U. of South Carolina), "A Preliminary Investigation of Factors That Promote the Development of Vocal and Active Social Justice Agents in Education"
- **Karen Skibba** (U. of Wisconsin-Milwaukee), "Blended Adult Degree Programs: How Are Decisions Made on Behalf of the Institution, Faculty, and Students?"
- **Carey E. Andrzejewski** (Ohio State U.), "Exploring the Intersections of Expert Secondary Teachers' Identities and Classroom Practices"
- **Jerika R. Johnstone** (U. of Minnesota-Minneapolis), "Exploring Post-Apartheid Pedagogy in South Africa"
- **Carrienne Hayslett** (Marquette U.), "Gender in Online Education"



Womack



Packer



Skibba



Andrzejewski

Pi Lambda Theta . . . supporting excellence EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT in education

hard-working committee and the Thetans they reached was especially impressive," said **Jean Wright**, chair of the endowment's fundraising committee. "The response will enable the endowment's continued growth and support for research and achievement in the field of education."

Overall endowment contributions totaled more than \$36,000, highlighted by a gift of \$9,766 from the Dorothy Seaburg Trust. Including other endowed awards and scholarships, the endowment awarded more than \$18,000 to students and researchers in the education field. The 12 research grants in 2007 constituted the second-highest total the endowment has awarded in any one year.

New PLT Research Grants. As the 2007 fund drive reached the home stretch, six additional PLT Research Grants,

From the President

Excellence Is Ordinary in Pi Lambda Theta

How do you identify a great group of educators? With Project Excellence! (See story, page 1.) It is our answer to helping educators find an award that fits an outstanding educator. I want to see more educators recognized for their excellent work.



Liz Douglass

We have more award-winning members than I could ever name, but I want to take a brief moment and reflect on a few from this past summer's Leadership Conference in Richmond. Jean Wright, winner of the Scepter and Key Award, has been one of our stalwarts for many years, and she continues to be a dedicated, award-winning member. I believe that we are blessed to have someone who has selflessly enhanced our organization for over three decades. She continues to search for quality educators, and she involves them at the chapter, regional, and international levels. I am proud to have Jean Wright as a friend and member. Her enthusiasm is never-ending.

Our Distinguished Pi Lambda Thetan for 2007, Janet Ishikawa-Fullmer, is another Thetan who is generous with her time and funds. The co-founder of three separate scholarship funds within the PLT Educational Endowment,

she is also committed to serving her people. Recently she received the American Institute of Public Service's Thomas Jefferson Award for Outstanding Public Service. Our members in Hawaii are so very fortunate to have such a dedicated member to learn from.

Shane Horn, who was named our Distinguished Student Scholar this past year, immediately caught my attention because of the abundance of organizations and vast amount of service that he has devoted himself to. We are fortunate that Shane has agreed to become our most recent addition to the international board as a student vice president. Shane has been actively involved in our Internet conversations. We are thrilled to have such an achiever join our board.

We in Pi Lambda Theta really are fortunate to be surrounded by a group of innovative and conscientious people. What an incredibly diverse people we have the pleasure of working with! As I reflect on everyone I have encountered over the years, I always return to those in Pi Lambda Theta—a group of influential people who are really just ordinary citizens looking to do their best. I want to encourage you to continue to be the best educator you can be and encourage others to be their best also.



Headliners

DISSERTATIONS

Sonja Bagby (University of West Georgia), "Stages of Concern: Measuring the Affective Dimension of Faculty Implementing an Instructional Innovation"
Dr. Bagby currently teaches senior composition (college prep and advanced placement) at Carrollton High School in Carrollton, Ga.

Patricia Ann Champion (University of Phoenix), "Equity vs. Excellence: A Delphi Study Examining the Future Ramifications of NCLB on Gifted Education"

Candice Dunn (University of Connecticut), "Asperger Syndrome: The Parental Perspective of Behaviors in Different Environments"
"My dissertation is a case study of eight mothers of children diagnosed with Asperger syndrome who share their stories of behaviors exhibited by their children within different environments. A model for these children emerged, a representation of an interrelationship of three components: the composite of the internal mechanisms of each individual child, the conditions present in the given environment and the responses of others to the behaviors developed. It includes behavioral response patterns that further define the interrelationships across cases."

Patricia J. Moran (Florida State University), "'Hide It Under a Bush, Hell, No!'—Women's Volunteer Organizations as Adult Education Initiatives"

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.)

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2007 PLT EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT RESEARCH GRANTS

PLT Research Grants fund direct expenses of education research in amounts up to \$2,500. A grant proposal can specify an independent project or a part of a larger project, such as a dissertation. Members of Pi Lambda Theta for at least one year are eligible to apply (next deadline: April 1, 2008).

Sara Chandler Trotman Womack, "A Comparison of the Effects of Orff-Schulwerk and Traditional Music Instruction on Selected Elements of Music Achievement in Third, Fourth, and Fifth Grade Students"

Womack, an elementary general music specialist, is working toward her doctorate in music education at the University of Georgia. Her bachelor's degree in music education, with a concentration in instrumental music education, was awarded magna cum laude by the U. of Alabama-Birmingham, where she also earned her master's degree in the same subject. Womack has taught music full-time in several elementary schools and part-time at Georgia State U. For two years she was a graduate teaching assistant at the U. of Georgia, where she was named "Outstanding Teaching Assistant." In 2006 the PLT Educational Endowment awarded her its Nadeen Burkeholder Williams Music Scholarship.



Womack

Catherine L. Packer, "A Preliminary Investigation of Factors That Promote the Development of Vocal and Active Social Justice Agents in Education"



Packer

Dr. Packer, an assistant professor at the U. of South Carolina, received her Ph.D. in counseling psychology from the U. of Georgia in 2006. The College of New Jersey awarded her bachelor's and master's degrees. She taught second grade for five years, and since 2000 has taught at postsecondary institutions. In 2002 Dr. Packer was listed in *Who's Who among America's Teachers*; in 1997 she was named an "Outstanding Young Woman of America."

Karen Skibba, "Blended Adult Degree Programs: How Are Decisions Made on Behalf of the Institution, Faculty, and Students?"



Skibba

Skibba, a Ph.D. candidate at U. Wisconsin-Milwaukee in adult and continuing education, holds a bachelor's degree in journalism and a master's in communication studies from Marquette U. Before entering education, she worked in communications for Kohl's Department Stores, Rockwell

Automation, and the International Association of Business Communicators and also served as a communications consultant to several firms. Since fall 2003 she has been a graduate project assistant with the Department of Administrative Leadership in the UW-M School of Education.

Carey E. Andrzejewski, "Exploring the Intersections of Expert Secondary Teachers' Identities and Classroom Practices"

Andrzejewski, a doctoral candidate in teacher education at Ohio State U., has been a PLT member since 2005. A 1999 graduate of Berry College, majoring in mathematics and dance, she has also received an M.A. degree in dance from Texas Woman's U. (2002) and another in education from Ohio State U. this year. In 2000-2002 she was an Allsup-Lane Graduate Scholar at TWU. She has taught middle school and high school mathematics as well as dance. In 1998 she was nominated for a Rhodes Scholarship.



Andrzejewski

Jerika R. Johnstone, "Exploring Post-Apartheid Pedagogy in South Africa"

Johnstone is a doctoral candidate in comparative and international development education at the U. of Minnesota-Minneapolis. In 2001, she received a master's degree from Teachers College, Columbia U., in international educational development, with a specialization in bilingual and bicultural education. Spelman College awarded her a bachelor of arts magna cum laude in 2000. She has served summer internships in Ghana, Costa Rica, and Zimbabwe. Fluent in Spanish, she also speaks basic Shona, a Zimbabwean language, and Twi, a Ghanaian language.

Carrienne Hayslett, "Gender in Online Education"

Hayslett, a doctoral candidate at Marquette U., received a B.A. from the U. of California-Riverside, where she double-majored in child psychology/human development as well as in history. She received her master's degree in education from Pepperdine U. She has taught several years in junior high and since 2001 served as an adjunct professor at Marquette. Her Ph.D. is anticipated next year.

Spring 2007 PLT Research Grants

Francine Falk-Ross, "Oral Language Activities for Vocabulary Building in Reading Programs"

Dr. Falk-Ross is an associate professor in the Department of Literacy Education at Northern Illinois University. She holds a bachelor's degree in speech and language pathology from SUNY-Albany and a master's degree in communications disorders from SUNY-Buffalo. She took

continued next page

PLT Research Grants *continued from previous page*

her Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from the U. of Illinois–Chicago. She has been an instructor at DePaul U. and an adjunct at several colleges and universities in the Chicago area. In 2002, Allyn & Bacon/Longman published her *Classroom-based Language and Literacy Intervention: A Programs and Case Studies Approach*. Her writings have also been featured in several anthologies.

Vicki L. Sweitzer, “Professional Identity Development among Business Ph.D. Students: A Social Networks Perspective”



Sweitzer

Dr. Sweitzer earned her Ph.D. in higher education administration from Pennsylvania State U. this year. She also holds an M.S. in management and organization from Penn State’s Smeal College of Business and an M.B.A. from Clarion U. of Pennsylvania. She graduated cum laude from Indiana U. of Pennsylvania.

Janice R. Showler and Jean C. Kohl, “Constructing Scaffolds to Support Literacy Achievement of First-Year Students: Bridging the Gap between High School and University Expectations”

Dr. Showler holds a Ph.D. in education (writing specialization) from the U. of Pennsylvania. She has taught at several colleges and universities in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. She is currently chair of the Art and Communication Department at Holy Family U., where she has also served as an interim assistant dean. She is a past president of Philadelphia Area Chapter.

Kohl, an adjunct teacher at Holy Family U., is the author of *Praxis: What You Need to Know*, a comprehensive guide and prep course for middle school teachers who must pass the Praxis Middle School Language Arts test.

Archie R. Wortham, “Paternal Involvement in the Education of Children: How African-American and Hispanic Fathers Communicated with Their Sons about the Value of Education”



Wortham

Dr. Wortham is an assistant professor of speech at Palo Alto College in San Antonio and a member of the board of directors of fatherville.com. He is best known nationally for his newspaper writing. In 1998, Dr. Wortham’s column, then titled “Jeremy’s Dad,” was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. Currently he contributes “Men 2 Fathers” to the *San Antonio Observer*.

Dr. Wortham, who received his Ph.D. from the University of Texas, Austin, has taught at 12 colleges and universities on two continents, and in the past decade he has presented at more than 15 conferences. The recipient of two George Washington Honor Medals from the

Freedoms Foundation, he was also named an Outstanding Young Man in America in 1984, 1985, and 1986. He served 20 years as an officer in the U.S. Army, where he received several medals for meritorious service and achievement, as well as the Parachutist Badge. For several years he also participated in Chicago’s Player’s Workshop of Second City.

The research he is conducting with the help of his PLT Research Grant focuses on fathers and how important they are in the overall growth and success of their children in school. He lives with his wife and their two teenage sons in suburban San Antonio.



Endowed Scholarships Awarded at New Mexico, Washington

Lisa A. Valdez, who is working toward licensure and endorsement in the language arts program at the University of New Mexico, is this year’s recipient of the Kathleen McCann PLT Scholarship, which Alpha Mu/U. of New Mexico Chapter established within the PLT Endowment in 1998.



Valdez

In April 2006, the Albuquerque Technical Vocational Institute awarded her an associate’s degree in liberal arts with highest honors. She enrolled at UNM for the autumn semester, 2006.

Prior to enrolling at ATVI, Ms. Valdez had extensive experience in the paralegal field. She has co-authored an instruction book for paralegals and spoken frequently at continuing education seminars. She received her paralegal certification from Albuquerque Career Institute, from which she graduated summa cum laude.

Ms. Valdez, who is carrying a straight-A average, is scheduled to receive her bachelor of arts in secondary education in May 2008.

The McCann scholarship is awarded each year to an outstanding student of teacher education in the College of Education at the University of New Mexico. A cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale is the threshold qualification.

Matthew J. Vanni is the 2007 recipient of the Sylvia and Arlo Vopni Scholarship, awarded annually to a science or math education major at the University of Washington. Matthew is a candidate in the school’s “Masters in Teaching” program. A graduate of the U. of Puget Sound in biology, he has worked since graduation for a small pharmaceutical company and then PATH (Program for Appropriate Technologies in Health), a well-known nonprofit organization that he served as a technology and biological adviser on several projects related to global health. “My experiences will be a tool that I can use to enlighten my future students about where their education could take them, whether in science or other areas of study,” he says.

PLT EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

NADEEN BURKEHOLDER WILLIAMS MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP—awarded to outstanding K–12 teachers pursuing a graduate degree at an accredited college or university. Recipients can be either music education teachers or classroom teachers who apply music systematically in another subject. Open to PLT members and nonmembers. *Application date: February 10.*

2007 recipients: Kathy Robison (Harding University); Rochelle Hume (Azusa Pacific University)

JANYCE YOSHIZAWA EXCELLENCE IN CLASSROOM TEACHING AWARD—recognizes outstanding classroom teaching in grades K–6 at a public or private school. Open to PLT members and nonmembers. *Application date: February 10.*

BERNARDO RAMOS EBEO SCHOLARSHIP—supports student achievement at NAMEI Polytechnic Institute, Manila, the Philippines' pioneer school in maritime education.

2007 recipients: Ericson Tolentino; Mary Grace Mendoza; Ericson Sta. Ana

BETA CHI SCHOLARSHIP II—an annual scholarship presented by Beta Chi Chapter to students at William Paterson University.

2007 recipient: Heather Turner

KATHLEEN McCANN SCHOLARSHIP—an annual scholarship for a student of teacher education in the College of Education at the University of New Mexico. Cumulative grade-point average requirement: at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale.

2007 recipient: Lisa A. Valdez

HAWAII CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP—a scholarship presented annually by Hawaii Chapter to an undergraduate (junior standing or higher) or graduate student in education at a regionally accredited institution. Cumulative grade-point average requirement: at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale.

2007 recipient: Carolina Cariaga-Camacho

SYLVIA AND ARLO VOPNI SCHOLARSHIP—awarded annually to a science or mathematics teacher education major at the University of Washington. Cumulative grade-point average requirement: at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale.

2007 recipient: Matthew J. Vanni

DR. DANIEL W. FULLMER AND DR. JANET ISHIKAWA-FULLMER SCHOLARSHIP—awarded annually to a graduate student in counseling psychology at the University of Denver. Cumulative grade-point average requirement: at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale.

2007 recipient: Shih-Ming Shih

DR. KARA VAUGHN JACKSON SCHOLARSHIP

Annual scholarship for undergraduate students (junior standing or higher) enrolled at Grambling State University. Cumulative grade-point average requirement: at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale.

JANET ISHIKAWA—DANIEL FULLMER SCHOLARSHIP

Annual scholarship for interns in the Dean's Leader for the Next Generation postdoctoral program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

FRANCES F. SHIMOTSU PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT—Annual grant awarded to members in good standing of PLT Far West Region V to defray all or part of the transportation, lodging, and registration expenses of attending workshops and conferences.

ALPHA IOTA/PI LAMBDA THETA—EDNA MAE SOPER TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD—An annual award for excellence in teaching at the K–12 level, as determined by the members of the Alpha Iota Chapter of Pi Lambda Theta. A recipient will be a teacher in grades K–12, have at least five years of experience teaching a diverse socioeconomic population, and have made significant contributions to the profession within and beyond the classroom.

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Pi Lambda Theta

EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT

supporting excellence in education

Background of the endowment. The Pi Lambda Theta Educational Endowment is the successor to the PLT Educational Trust, established in 1981 to “provide financial support for study, research, and service in education and for the projects, programs, and activities of Pi Lambda Theta.” The endowment, an autonomous, nonprofit entity that has received a 501(c)(3) designation from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, has sought to continue that mission since its establishment by the 1995 Biennial Council.

As a result of 501(c)(3) status, donations to the endowment may be deductible for federal income tax purposes. Please note that capital gains on donated securities may escape federal taxation as well. Contact the PLT International Office, 1-800-487-3411, endowment@pilambda.org, for more information.

Contributing to the endowment’s mission. Thetans have two principal ways to contribute to the PLT Endowment: 1) *by contributing to the endowment’s main fund*, or 2) *by specifying that a gift (or a bequest—a gift arranged by will) applies to particular funds*, such as a specific award or chapter scholarship. (Please contact the PLT

International Office about how to arrange a specific—“restricted”—gift or bequest.) All endowment donations go to the principal of the funds. Unspecified gifts and bequests—“unrestricted gifts” in accounting language—are applied to the endowment’s main fund for specific projects and programs approved by the endowment board. Chapter professional projects, research grants, and various scholarships are examples of activities supported by the main endowment fund. Contributions to the main fund become part of its principal, which must be invested. The endowment’s bylaws limit administrative expenses to 10 percent of the amount the directors designate for distribution each year. The endowment may spend only the earnings from investments. Each disbursement must receive final approval from the endowment board of directors.

Plan now to contribute before December 31, 2007, for maximum tax advantages. For more information or to receive an informative brochure describing the endowment’s structure and purposes, call the PLT International Office at 1-800-487-3411, or e-mail endowment@pilambda.org.

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