



# Phi Alpha Honor Society

*"Through knowledge - the challenge to serve"*

## Zeta Eta Chapter

*The **purposes** of Phi Alpha Honor Society are to provide a closer bond among students of social work and promote humanitarian goals and ideals. Phi Alpha fosters high standards of education for social workers and invites into membership, those who have attained excellence in scholarship and achievement in social work.*

## History of Phi Alpha

The concept of a national social work honor society came from a group of undergraduate social work students at Michigan State University in 1960. Investigation revealed that local chapters existed at three schools. Those three schools along with a few others schools formed a National Honor Society Committee in November, 1960. For more than a year this committee worked on the constitution and other administrative matters. The name Phi Alpha and the key were adopted from the local chapter which existed at Florida State University. The constitution and formal organization were completed in 1962, and six chapters qualified to become "charter chapters." They were: Florida State University, Michigan State University, Ohio Northern University, Central State College, University of Dayton and the University of Tennessee. Over 110 chapters are now in existence, and the addition of new chapters is continuing.

## The advantages of joining Phi Alpha include

- Becoming a member of a nationally recognized organization that supports high standards in social work education
- Receiving a "Medallion" and the blue and gold colors of Phi Alpha to wear during the graduation ceremony
- Participation in scholarly activities and social action events
- Working together with student colleagues and professors on social issues and creating a scholarly environment for the UNT Social Work Program
- Identification on your resume as a Phi Alpha Honor Society member ensures acknowledgement of academic excellence and open doors for professional success

**Requirements for Membership:**

Officially accepted into the social work program at least one semester prior to application for Phi Alpha membership.

- \* 8 credit hours of social work classes
- \* 3.0 overall G.P.A.
- \* 3.25 cumulative G.P.A. in social work classes

**Initiation of New Members:**

New members are generally accepted each fall and spring semester.

**Check the National Phi Alpha website for additional information or to order Phi Alpha items at [www.phialpha.org](http://www.phialpha.org)**

Faculty Advisor:  
Dr. Cecilia Thomas  
Thomasc@unt.edu