

Tonisha Taylor, Shantice Wright, Vaughn Staiger, Narolin Rojas, and Jake Faria Phi Alpha Advisor: Professor Colleen Beach

2025-2025 PHI ALPHA E-BOARD

BRIDGING BSWs, MSWs & DSWs

The concept of a national social worker honor society began in 1960, when undergraduate social work students at Michigan State University recognized the need for a national organization to honor academic excellence in the field. After discovering that similar local honor societies existed at several universities, representatives formed a National Honor Society Committee to develop the organization's constitution and structure. The name Phi Alpha and its key symbol were adopted from an existing chapter at Florida State University. By 1962, the constitution was finalized and the organization was formally established with six charter chapters: Florida State University, Michigan State University, Ohio Northern University, Central State College, University of Dayton, and the University of Tennessee. Today, Phi Alpha has grown to include over 400 chapters nationwide, with new chapters continuing to be established.

Our current president, Vaughn Staiger, was inducted into the Mu Upsilon Chapter of Phi Alpha in Spring 2022. By Fall 2022, Vaughn was elected Vice President while still a BSW student, serving on an executive board primarily composed of MSW students. During her term, she helped support a bylaw change allowing DSW students to join Phi Alpha and serve on the executive board. In 2023, the Mu Upsilon Chapter inducted its first cohort of DSW students, two of whom later ran for and were elected to executive board positions, marking an important step toward expanding leadership opportunities within the chapter.



<p>Vaughn Staiger, BSW President Advanced Standing MSW Student</p> <p>Why I joined the eBoard: "I have always loved and been a part of Phi Alpha. As President, I hope to continue to provide exceptional opportunities for our students."</p> <p>Social Work Aspirations: "I aim to obtain my LCSW and work with veterans, first responders, and their families."</p> <p>Current Job: "I am a full-time treatment counselor at an adolescent group home in Red Bank."</p> <p>2025-2026 School Year Goal: "My goal for this year is to enjoy the process and the little things."</p>	<p>Jake Faria Vice President Third-year BSW Student in the Advanced Standing Program</p> <p>Why I joined the eBoard: "I plan to establish a private practice specializing in therapy for young adults, with a focus on the LGBTQ+ community."</p> <p>Social Work Aspirations: "I'm an RA on campus and I'm looking for a junior year placement in a high school."</p> <p>Current Job: "To become more involved on campus and give back to my social work community."</p> <p>2025-2026 School Year Goal: "One goal for this school year is to find a perfect junior placement!"</p>	<p>Shantice Wright, MSW, MPA, LSW Secretary Third Year DSW Candidate</p> <p>Why I joined the eBoard: "To continue building our social media presence and connect with our members."</p> <p>Social Work Aspirations: "Teaching social work and holistic health to college-level scholars."</p> <p>Current Job: "Quality Assurance Analyst for New Jersey's Department of Children and Families."</p> <p>2025-2026 School Year Goal: "Become Dr. Wright."</p>	<p>Narolin Rojas Events Chair Coordinator Third-year BSW Student in the Advanced Standing Program</p> <p>Why I joined the eBoard: "I aspire to work in child welfare and dedicate myself to supporting the community, being there for children, families, and anyone in need of help."</p> <p>Social Work Aspirations: "I wanted to become more involved in Phi Alpha, connect with peers in the social work community, and help create opportunities that promote growth, leadership, and service."</p> <p>Current Job: "I'm a Preschool Substitute Teacher."</p> <p>2025-2026 School Year Goal: "To strengthen my professional skills, build stronger connections with my peers and professors, and contribute to meaningful projects within Phi Alpha."</p>	<p>Tonisha Taylor, MSW, LSW, MA, ED.S Treasurer Third Year DSW Candidate</p> <p>Why I joined the eBoard: "Giving back to our honors society and connecting with fellow social work students."</p> <p>Social Work Aspirations: "To develop new programming for my nonprofit, Shine A Light NJ."</p> <p>Current Job: "Dean of Humanities, Social Sciences and Community Engagement at LCCC."</p> <p>2025-2026 School Year Goal: "Successfully defend my capstone."</p>
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IMPACT OF PHI ALPHA

Vaughn- Phi Alpha creates unique opportunities for growth that allow individuals to explore their social work identity and create avenues of networking with like-minded individuals. As the President, I have the unique opportunity to act as a sounding board for community ideas and create change within systems. Phi Alpha has instilled a stronger need to help those around me get to where they want to be. In Ghanaian culture, the term Sankofa is used to describe the act of going back and getting. When applied, the term sets the standard principles for community, mentorship, and supporting those on their journey. As I conclude my personal academic journey, I can turn and help those stepping into their social work journey.

Jake- Serving as the Vice President of Phi Alpha has been such a meaningful experience for me. It has given me the opportunity to grow not only as a leader, but also as a person. I'm so grateful that I've been given the opportunity to support a community of students who are passionate about social work and making a difference. I'm thankful to have played a role in helping bring members together and contributing to an organization that reflects the values of service, advocacy, and academic excellence.

Shantice- I have had the privilege of serving as our E-Board Secretary for the 2024-2025, and 202-2026 school years. This experience has been rewarding for me on various ways. Professionally, I have developed transferable skills in digital marketing, social media engagement, and leadership. Academically, I have grown positive relationships with alumni, current chapter members and university faculty. Personally, my confidence has flourished, and I am proud to say that I am a part of the Phi Alpha community. As a chapter member, I have lived in my purpose as a scholar and social worker, and I'm forever grateful for this opportunity.

Narolin- Serving as the Phi Alpha Events Coordinator has been a really meaningful experience for me. It pushed me to step out of my comfort zone and take on more responsibility while planning events for our chapter. Through this role, I've grown more confident in my leadership and communication skills. It has also been rewarding to help create opportunities for members to connect and be involved in our social work community.

Tonisha- Being a part of Phi Alpha this academic year has been a transformative experience! I've been able to engage with members of the Monmouth community in ways that I normally wouldn't have since I am commuter student. As someone who works in senior leadership at a higher education institution, I am grateful for the opportunity to provide mentorship to the BSW and MSW students who are eager to learn and grow in the social work profession.

Professor Beach- Harambee means "all pull together." This comes to mind when I think about being a faculty advisor for Phi Alpha. Our executive board run social media campaigns and service activities are critical to doing so. This would not be possible without a cohesive, hard-working e-board. We are blessed to have talented and generous leadership who collaborate as a unit. They tap into one another's strengths to carry out their vision and embody Harambee. One of the greatest joys of being advisor is witnessing their collective power and creativity. It helps me maintain hope.

COMMUNITY BUILDING & SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Mu's Phi Alpha Honor Society Upsilon Chapter Presents.....

Candy Bag Fundraiser

Date: Friday, October 31, 2025
Time: 11:00AM - 12:00PM EST.
Location: McAllan Hall Lobby
Price: \$2.00 per candy bag

Mu Upsilon Phi Alpha Honor's Society Presents.....

Ask A Social Worker Webinar

Date: Thursday, November 20, 2025
Time: 6:30PM-8:30PM EST.
Location: Online via ZOOM

Gain valuable information from fellow MSW & DSW social workers about the following topics:

- Practicum Placement Options
- LSW/LCSW Study/Testing Tips
- Various Social Work Career Settings & Salaries
- Clinical and Community Practice
- Much More!

Earn Two Practicum hours by attending the full webinar!

PHI ALPHA NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK HONOR SOCIETY

Monmouth University Upsilon Chapter

2026 Humanitarian Scholar Award

- All Phi Alpha members are eligible to apply
- Three winners will be selected (1 BSW Scholar, 1 MSW Scholar & 1 DSW Scholar)
- Minimum 1000 words
- Submission due date is Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 11:59PM EST
- Submit your essays to Narolin Rojas (s1357033@monmouth.edu)

Campus-wide Food Donation Drive

Drop your food donations into boxes at the following locations:

Residence Halls:

- Laurel
- Hesse
- Beachwood
- Cedar
- Spruce
- Elmwood
- Pinewood
- Mulaney
- Oakwood
- Redwood
- Willow

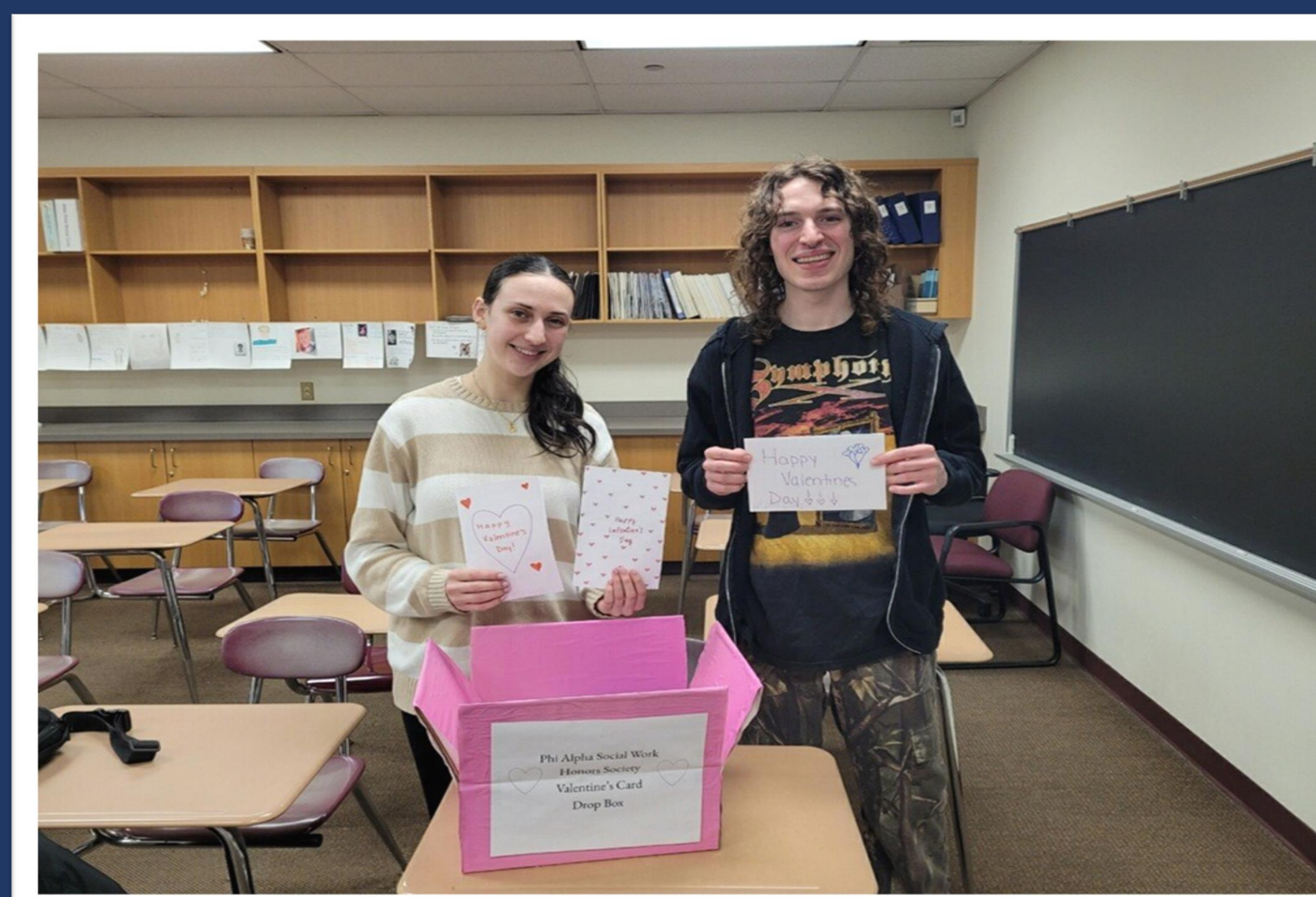
Additional Locations:

- McAllan Hall
- Intercultural Center

Throughout the academic year, Phi Alpha hosts several events with the goal of fostering connection, mentorship, and professional growth among emerging social work practitioners. Our fundraising and philanthropic activities promote civic engagement and collective action, which reinforces core social work values while cultivating skills across all three social work degree programs. Our Ask a Social Worker virtual series provides students with an accessible forum to engage with practicing social workers, explore career trajectories, and receive real-time mentorship. We all pull together across educational levels and roles to celebrate our student and alumni members' accomplishments, raise awareness of needs in the community, support our learning and professional growth, and be a source of positivity. It has been a goal to establish an "Once a Phi Alpha, Always a Phi Alpha" culture so that our members know we are invested in their well-being and professional growth beyond induction day.

TARGETED SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

In 2022, Phi Alpha's Upsilon Chapter at MU developed an Instagram page, @monmouthphiaalpha, to connect with current and alumni members, as well as our greater communities across campus and beyond. Through these last four years, Instagram has allowed Phi Alpha to share our social justice and humanitarian initiatives, chapter member achievements, and raise awareness about current societal challenges. Through our years of engagement via Instagram, we have reached more than 9,000 viewers across the platform, while gaining almost 200 new followers. With almost 300 posts, we have been able to share information about on-campus events, fundraisers, and global social media movements within social work. Recently, we have created a LinkedIn page, Monmouth University Phi Alpha, to connect professionally with current and alumni members, further advancing our passions and achievements within social work.



The 2025-2025 Phi Alpha E-Board would like to thank Professor Colleen Beach for her guidance and support. We appreciate you!!!!