

## Why Alpha Iota Delta?

In 1971, members of the Decision Sciences Institute chartered Alpha Iota Delta, the international honor society in the decision sciences and information systems. This society continues to be linked to the Decision Sciences Institute and supports those activities of DSI which are aimed at student involvement in the disciplines of interest to the Institute. The purpose of the society is threefold:

- To confer distinction to students in the decision sciences and information systems disciplines for academic excellence.
- To promote the infusion of the functional and behavioral areas of business with the tools, concepts, and methodologies of the decision sciences and information systems.
- To promote interest in the disciplines of decision sciences and information systems

The Decision Sciences Institute ([www.decisionsciences.org](http://www.decisionsciences.org)) was established to provide a focus on the integration of research in the art and science of managerial decision making across traditional functional academic disciplines. Because the goals and vision of DSI and Alpha Iota Delta are intertwined, why would a student be interested in being initiated into the Society? The answer might be found, in part, in an excerpt from an Alpha Iota Delta Initiation Ritual which addresses the meaning of the Greek letters (Alpha), (Iota), and (Delta).

**ALPHA** represents the beginning. It not only signifies the beginning of a career in the decision sciences and/or information systems but also it signifies a commitment to leadership. A leader develops guiding ideas and articulates them deliberately, demonstrating philosophical depth and recognizing the process as ongoing. The meaning, and sometimes the expression, of these guiding ideas evolve as people reflect and talk about them, and as they are applied to guide decisions and actions.

**IOTA** represents integration, both of knowledge and also of concept. The synergy between theories, methods, and tools lies at the heart of any field of human endeavor that truly builds knowledge. The continuous cycle of creating theories, developing and applying practical methods and tools based on the theories, leading to new insights that improve the theories – is the primary engine of growth in decision sciences and computer information systems.

**DELTA** is the universal symbol for change. It signifies that the initiate will respond to change with rationality and logic.

Honor society membership, like most worthwhile things in life, does not come easily. Therefore, when an invitation to membership arrives, it truly is a ***matter of honor***, reflecting exceptional academic achievement and, perhaps, outstanding campus leadership and service. It is an honor typically bestowed upon students by faculty, and it provides lifetime distinction. The members of Alpha Iota Delta share an interest in the decision sciences and information systems. Through the society and the Decision Sciences Institute, the member can maintain currency in the fields of interest through conferences, publications and other services. Alpha Iota Delta allows its members to stay in contact through meetings at the annual DSI meeting, and it provides ***lifelong recognition of a member's search for excellence***.

For more information about Alpha Iota Delta, please visit the website ([www.alphaiotadelta.com](http://www.alphaiotadelta.com)).