

ALPHA IOTA MU

RITUAL

Alpha Iota Mu is an international honorary and scholastic society dedicated to these goals and purposes: to honor outstanding contributions to the field of information management; to promote higher ideals and integrity among those practicing information management; and to further our profession, our community, and our planet by promoting excellence in the world of education and in the world of business. We are dedicated to seeking the best practices of our profession, to implementing those practices, and to accepting and embracing our role in the ever-changing field of information systems.

You who are now before us have been invited to present yourselves to the Alpha Chapter of the International Society of Alpha Iota Mu. You have been invited to affirm your wish to complete the rite of initiation you are about to receive. Be it known that only the most deserving of collegiate students, faculty, and members of education and commerce, those who have exhibited the ability to advance the knowledge and practice of information management, are eligible for initiation into our international society. You who are before us now have been deemed worthy by your faculty and by your colleagues to be among those who have demonstrated these qualities. Because of your accomplishments, you are offered membership in the International Society of Alpha Iota Mu.

Listen, as we reveal to you the mysteries of Alpha Iota Mu.

Alpha is taken from the Greek word *Alethos*, meaning truth. As we all seek the truth in life, we must offer it as well. The truth is the only path you may take to enduring success and happiness in your personal and your professional life. Truth is like a torch that lights the darkness of night—without the torch there is only darkness. You must endeavor to shine the light of truth upon your profession, into your world, and within yourselves. You must ever seek, not only to convert data to useful information, but also to transform information into knowledge and knowledge into wisdom. You must always be truthful with your colleagues, with your loved ones, and with your own self. You must be truthful in word and in deed to the practice of your profession. *Alethos*, truth, now and forever.

Iota is taken from the Greek word *Ichanotes*, meaning competency. The practice of information systems requires professionals who seek to become masters of their craft. Information systems professionals must achieve competency in the technical skills needed to furnish today's world with the engines of the information age. Furthermore, information systems professionals must build the bridges which link the power of that technology to the places it matters most—to the people who depend upon that information and that knowledge and that wisdom. Respect comes to those who have the ability to achieve their goals. Only those who are competent may gain the admiration and the trust of their colleagues and their families. Therefore you must earnestly strive to uphold each of your responsibilities, and to uphold these awesome duties to the best of

your abilities. *Ichanotes* with the tools of your trade, and *ichanotes* with the people you serve.

Mu is taken from the Greek word *Metaballo*, meaning change. The profession of information systems is by its very nature dynamic. *Alethos* is a constant. *Ichanotes* is a constant. Paradoxically, *metaballo*, change, is also a constant. As information systems professionals, we must accept that the tools of our trade, that the roles we perform, and that the services we provide are subject to constant, continuous, and unrelenting change. Each of you who stand before us have demonstrated the ability to adapt to change, to meet the challenge of change, and to succeed in spite of the inherent obstacles posed by change. As professionals you must always be prepared for the opportunities and the difficulties that change presents. Strength is found in detecting and effectively managing change. Always be prepared for *metaballo*, the challenge of change.

If you accept these mysteries of Alpha Iota Mu, the time has come to take the oath of membership in the International Society of Alpha Iota Mu.

Initiates, say "I," state your name in full, and repeat after me:

I [full name]
Do hereby pledge myself
To uphold the honor and dignity
Bestowed upon me this day
By the International Society of Alpha Iota Mu.

I will comply with the Rules of the Society
And will conduct myself
According to the highest standards
Of civic and professional ethics.

I promise to strive to advance
My profession,
My colleagues,
My society,
And my world.

You have proven yourself worthy of the honor and the prestige that admission into our society brings. So, by the power vested in me as the President of the Alpha Chapter of the International Society of Alpha Iota Mu, I hereby declare you duly elected members.

[Names of the initiates are called, each receiving a certificate of membership]

Ladies and Gentlemen, I present to you the Lambda Class of the Alpha Chapter of Alpha Iota Mu.