

# The Michigander



## Host Chapters Needed for Regional Conventions

By Regional Coordinator Kari Kahler

Is your chapter looking for an outstanding leadership development opportunity for the 2012-2013 academic year? Would you like to showcase your college and share it with the Michigan Region?

Consider bidding to host one of the three Michigan Regional Conventions:

**Leadership:** to be held in August or the first part of September; the focus of this conference is to build leadership skills for Michigan members and to understand the Phi Theta Kappa experience and all the benefits of membership.

**Mini Honors:** to be held between mid-October and mid-November; this conference focuses on the Honors Study Topic: The Culture of Competition and how to build award winning Honors in Action and College Projects.

**Regional Convention:** this conference has traditionally been held the weekend before Memorial Day (for a number of years) and is the celebratory finish to an outstanding academic year. This conference includes the Gala Awards Ceremony highlighting chapters' accomplishments. We also elect the Regional Board and determine sites for the following year's conventions.

Check out the links for information on how to host a conference and the form to bid to host a conference on the Michigan Region Website:

<http://miptk.angelfire.com/regional-elections.html>

Applications to bid are due to Kari Kahler, Regional Coordinator by Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup> 2012. You will also need to present your bid at the Regional Convention on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at this year's Regional Convention. Thank you for considering!

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## ★ **Alumnus & Beyond** ★

**By Roger Hammonds, Alumni Representative**

Once you become an alumnus of Phi Theta Kappa, the opportunities just keep coming. You may have asked yourself, "What's next?" If you have enjoyed your involvement with Phi Theta Kappa and would like to continue to serve the organization, become an officer of an alumni association. It is a great way to stay involved. You can join the International, regional, community, and/or four-year institution based alumni associations. Membership in these associations is not exclusive and you can be a member of more than one alumni association.

There are many alumni association opportunities to choose from in Michigan. If your plans include transfer to Western Michigan University, there is Alpha of Michigan, Michigan's only four-year institution alumni association. Both Henry Ford Community College and St. Clair County Community College have community-based alumni associations, Alpha Xi Mu Alumni Association and Blue Water Alumni Association respectively, with many opportunities available. Macomb Community College also has a community-based alumni association under formation and other colleges are considering forming their own. This could be your chance to become a part of something exciting and new. There is the regional alumni association, Michigan Region Alumni Association, known as MRAA at regional events. This alumni association helps out at regional events and provides any needed support to the Michigan Regional Board.

Whatever your commitment level maybe, if you are interested in staying involved, I encourage you to ask about these alumni associations today!

## **Ah Spring! Do April Showers *Truly* Bring May Flowers?**

**By Clara Cherry, 2011/2012 President-Elect, MRAA**

Spring is a time of new beginnings - flowers bloom, leaves sprout, birds sing and new life fills the world around us. Like the passing of winter it is also the time for one year to transition into a new beginning within Phi Theta Kappa: new Honors Study Topic, new Officer Teams (International, Regional, Alumni and Chapter), member recruits and new opportunities to show your commitment to scholarship, leadership, service and fellowship!

The Regional and Alumni Boards are looking for the blossoming leadership in you! If you're thinking about running for a regional or alumni association office – **Go For It!** As the energy from renewed spirits tingles from your toes to your finger tips, consider your strengths, talk with the current board teams and add your name to the ballot for one of the following positions:

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## Regional Board

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary/Treasurer
- Public Relations/Historian

## MRAA Board

- President-Elect
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Alumni Representative (*elected to Regional Board*)



Each position holds with it certain responsibilities and honors. But don't let that scare you away from campaigning; what you gain from your involvement can be so much more than duties and tasks! Being on either board can be an amazing experience of growth, learning, and sharing! In Spring-like unison, being a member of the candidate groups offers each prospect an additional opportunity to become closer to the region and your fellow Phi Theta Kappans - relationships that could last a lifetime! *You will get out of these experiences EVERYTHING you put into it and MORE!*

To be a Regional Officer Candidate, please follow these steps:

- Complete and return the Regional Office Candidate form to the Regional Coordinator.
- Prepare a **three-minute** speech on The Culture of Competition, the current Honors Topic
- Deliver prepared speech **Saturday morning, May 19**
- Be prepared to answer three or four Phi Theta Kappa-related questions
- Have your campaign ready! (more information can be found online at: <http://miptk.angelfire.com/regional-elections.html>)

To be a Michigan Region Alumni Association Officer Candidate:

- Prepare a **three-minute** speech on who you are and what your goals would be as an MRAA officer - providing evidence of why the MRAA membership should vote for you!
- Deliver prepared speech during the **MRAA meeting** at the convention.

Any of the current officers would be more than happy to answer the questions you may have about the experience and to provide reflections on being a member of this extraordinary region! Please feel free to contact us collectively or individually.

Whether campaigning or not, please join us at the Michigan Regional Convention, May 18-20, 2012, at Mid Michigan Community College to find the answer to my initial question - *do April showers truly bring May flowers?* Come witness and drink in the sweet nectar of opportunity and splendor offered from our Michigan regional bouquet!

I hope to see you all in **less than 1 month!** Hugs and best wishes on all final exams and end of semester activities!



## Top 5 Reasons to Become a Regional Officer

★ By Ashley Flees ★

### 1. It is a new challenge

As honors students we are game for a challenge. We do not like to give in or give up and we give it our all when we set a goal. Running for a regional officer position is a new way to challenge yourself within the realm of Phi Theta Kappa.

### 2. New doors are opened

New opportunities are presented to you when you undertake new challenges. These opportunities range from traveling and seeing new places to hearing new ideas and discovering new avenues of thought. As an officer, you will be able to travel to all regional conferences, the Honors Institute, and the Annual Convention. At each, you are able to attend various sessions that tend to inspire.

### 3. New skills are developed

While challenging yourself you will be also developing skills that will aid you in all your endeavors. As a regional officer, you will be placed in position that will require skills such as leadership, communication, and organization. Being a regional officer provides the opportunity for you to hone these skills for current and future application.

### 4. New ties are created

By branching out and traveling to new parts of your state and country, you create new ties with new members and your regional team. When meeting new people who share the same determination as yourself you are creating new and lasting bridges that span the state and country. Knowing that you can reach out to your fellow members no matter where you are is a powerful feeling.

### 5. Lasting memories are established

When you branch out of your comfort zone and challenge yourself, travel to new places, and meet new individuals you create lasting memories. Such memories will serve you as a reservoir filled of amazing people and ideas that can help shape bright tomorrows.

There are so many more benefits that you gain when taking on the challenge of being a regional officer. From becoming a better leader to a better team member you will have opportunities to grow and become more than you have previously thought possible. So take that first step and dive in to creating a campaign for your future regional board position!

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## Honors Institute – The Jewel of Phi Theta Kappa

By Hope Buell, Gregory Lane, Kevin Steir, and Katrina Soper

The Phi Theta Kappa Honors Institute is considered to be “the jewel of Phi Theta Kappa”. It is a week-long retreat with a maximum of 450 participants where the Honors Study Topic is discussed in-depth by a number of speakers from a variety of different fields. While this trip is not cheap, (registration costs \$875, and that does not include the costs of travel) it is well worth it, and if you are offered the opportunity to go to this, you would be missing a huge opportunity if you were to say no. The newly elected Regional Board receives a scholarship from the Region which covers the registration fee, as well as a travel stipend to ensure that they can attend the Honors Institute each year. The Region also gives out four scholarships which cover the cost of the registration fee to the top four chapters in the region, and those members who are selected from those chapters only have to pay their travel fees. This year’s Honors Institute will be held from June 18-23 in Denver, Colorado at the University of Denver!

Here are a few reflections on the 2011 Honors Institute, which was held in Boston, Massachusetts:

“The 2011 Honors Institute, held in Boston, MA, was truly a paradigm-altering experience for me. Through the speakers and breakout sessions, I was able to thoroughly improve my understanding of the Democratization of Information. The week also offered several excellent opportunities for personal growth outside the classroom, chances to learn more about this country’s exciting history, and fun times. My only regret in attending this conference is in knowing what I will be missing in the years to come!” – Gregory Lane



“What can I say about Honor’s Institute? The experience was one of the most incredible as well as powerful of my life. I gained a great knowledge on what this honor’s study topic is. From listening to all the excellent keynote speakers, I was able to see almost a time frame of how the democratization of information has changed throughout the years. The first speaker was a man who showed how information was delivered through a silent film. He played the piano while we watched the film. It was an incredible

experience. Another speaker explained how information could be spread through a different sort of medium. That was through the use of a book. All speakers had presented wonderful ways of how information can be spread. They also gave examples through which this democratization of information has been advantageous, disadvantageous, and powerful. There is much more I could say about this but that may take a few pages or so. What I will say is this is a once in a lifetime experience and I would urge other chapters to send at least one person to this intensive study of the honor's study topic. It was well worth it." - Kevin Steir

"Being able to go to Honors Institute in Boston this past year was an awesome experience that I am so grateful and lucky to have been able to do. It was a great networking opportunity where I was able to meet and build friendships with some awesome people. I truly made some life- long friends. It was awesome to be able to listen to lectures about our Honors Study topic from experts from all over the board. Musicians, authors, astronauts, and comics, it gave me a better understanding about what the topic was really about. We had breakout sessions after each lecture where we could discuss what we liked or did not like about the speaker and what they had to say. It was great to get all the different perspectives on how people view different topics. Honors Institute was a learning experience that I will carry with me throughout my college career and beyond. I would have to say the best part for me though was the fellowship with fellow PTK people in the amazing city of Boston with all of its long history. If you have the slightest chance to go, go. You will not regret it." – Katrina Soper



And as a Regional Officer who went to this on a scholarship, I too can say that this was a truly amazing experience and one which I will be forever grateful to the Michigan Region for sending me to. If you are thinking about running for a Regional office, keep in mind that you get this scholarship and don't miss out on the opportunity to attend the outstanding Honors Institute, because it truly lives up to its name of "the Jewel of Phi Theta Kappa"!

## What To Do When You Can't Sell Textbooks Back

★ By Kevin Howe ★



Have you tried to sell your books back to the bookstore just to find out they switched to a newer edition and will not buy them? What do you do then? Most students are not interested in keeping their textbooks, but do not want to throw them out. SOLUTION: DONATE them to a third world country and let them be of use again! Our chapter has donation boxes in all our buildings and we box them up and ship them out, usually once a semester. Best part is this; we make a few dollars in the process! The company we send them to actually buys them from us! This money goes into our account for things like our Annual BBQ, conventions and whatever other costs arise. If your chapter may be interested, please contact us at Alpha Omicron Gamma!!!



## **Tech Corner – How to use GIMP**

**By Michael J. Wisniewski, Jr.**



My last two newsletter articles were creating Animoto and Prezi presentations on the Internet. Each tool is very good; however, they are limited. You can only use, at max, two lines of text per slide and images. This article is a 'work around' that uses a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation (or its equivalent) and a free alternative to Adobe Photoshop called GIMP (GNU Imaging Manipulation Program). GIMP is a wonderful tool in and of itself. This article will describe how to use the cropping tool.



### Downloading and installing the program.

Type [bit.ly/PTK\\_GIMP](http://bit.ly/PTK_GIMP) in your Internet Browser address bar. Click on 'save'. Locate the file in the folder that the file was saved. Click on 'run'. Click on 'yes'. Click on 'Next.' You will then see: GNU General Public License click on 'Next'. Click on 'Install Now.' Completing the GIMP Setup Wizard. Click 'Next.' You will then see the GIMP program appear on your desktop.

Create a Microsoft PowerPoint for your presentation. Open the window as large as your desktop. Navigate to each page and create a 'screen shot'.

Locate the 'prt scn' (print screen) button. This button is usually on the upper right side of your keyboard between the backspace key and number pad. Make sure the preferred slide is visible on your Desktop. Press the 'prt scn' button (this copies the screen into your computers "clipboard"). Hover the mouse cursor on the toolbar at the bottom of your desktop. Click the GIMP Icon. Click on the whitespace and Left-click on the 'Edit' menu. Scroll down and click on 'paste' and you will see the screen shot appear in the window. Find the 'toolbox' and locate the crop tool (three rows down and four columns over from the left). Click on the 'scalpel' icon. Click on the upper left corner of the window that you want to separate from the background. Hold the Left mouse button down and select the entire area. Release the mouse button and double left-click on the image and you will see the background disappear. Click on the 'File' dropdown menu. Click on the 'Save As' button. In the 'Save Image' dialogue box, click on the 'Browse for other folders.' Locate the folder that you wish to create your story board, or...Click on 'Desktop' folder on the left side of the screen. Locate the 'Create Folder' on the right side of the screen. Type 'Storyboard' in the blue line. Click on the dialogue box to the right of 'Name' and type: Capture001.

Repeat the process for each subsequent picture incrementing the name of each image by name it Capture 002, Capture 003, etc. Now you can use these images to create your Animoto or Prezi presentations.

Have fun and play with all of the tools that GIMP has.



## **SC4 Symposium!**



**By Hannah Redlawski**



On March 16 students of St. Claire County Community College (SC4) gathered for a series of six lectures about the "Culture Of Competition" from SC4's own professors at the annual Symposium. The presenters were Dale Vos, Joseph Mazzara, Dave Sheldon, Patricia Frank, Paul Bedard, and Gale Armstrong. These teachers brought forward their perception on the culture of competition from their own fields of profession. This series of one-hour lectures gave listeners a new look at the topic at hand in everything from competing against one's self, psychological and biological competition to history, mathematics, and even food competitions! Phi Theta Kappa's local chapter Lambda Mu hosted this annual event; this year was now their 17th time holding the Symposium. Many students were lured by the promise of extra credit from various classes, but they were not the only ones to be rewarded to come. The speakers also received a gift of appreciation for their hard work and support for the Symposium. Lambda Mu would like to thank those who took time out of their days to come, as well as Bistro's Catering and SC4's presenters!

## **Buy a Ticket to Support Regional Scholarships**



**and Regional Goals**



**By Clara Cherry, 2011/2012 President-Elect, MRAA**

At each Regional conference and convention Michigan Region Alumni Association holds two raffles to support scholarships and regional goals of giving back and paying it forward. The first very successful raffle is our 50/50 raffle. The proceeds from which go to support the annual Golden Opportunity Scholarship worth \$250! The raffle winner receives 50% of the funds raised to spend as they see fit - who couldn't use extra gas money these days?!

The second of our very popular raffles is the Backpack / School Supply raffle. For each ticket purchased between Friday night and Sunday morning you have a chance to win a fabulous new backpack full of all those things every student needs for a successful year! From paper to pens to binders to an 8G flash drive and goodies galore, this is one raffle you do not want to miss out on! You might be surprised by what you find in the "Summer" backpack!

Saturday evening during dinner activities we draw the ticket of one lucky 50/50 winner! While Sunday lunch provides the venue to announce the backpack raffle winner! Don't forget to purchase tickets each day from your friendly MRAA representatives and have your tickets handy during the appropriate draw – you must be present to win! Tickets sell quickly at an "arms length" for \$10; 15 tickets for \$5; or 3 tickets for \$1. Showing your support is not limited by your status (*members, alumni, advisors or guests*). Consider purchasing a ticket or three!

## **Alpha Omicron Gamma's Food Drive**

★ **By Kevin Howe** ★

JoAnn Gave from student services put in many long and grueling hours to start Kirtland's first official student food bank. With the economy in the shape it is in and Kirtland having students from numerous counties commuting to and from, everyone thought it was time to help those students that may need helping. The official opening and ribbon cutting ceremony was held Monday March 12<sup>th</sup>.

Alpha Omicron Gamma advisor Terry Geary and President Brandy Howe have made a commitment to the food bank already. March 14<sup>th</sup> was the official kick-off of the Phi Theta Kappa Food Drive!!! It works like this: chapter members will bring food donations in for the bank that will be weighed and logged for the next few weeks. At the end of the month, the member that has donated the largest amount of non-perishable food will win. Win what? We are looking at the Phi Theta Kappa online store for some prize ideas. Who knows, it could be a sweatshirt, t-shirt or something from the gift section!!!

## **The Michigan Regional Yearbook**

★ **By Hope Buell** ★

The Michigan Regional Bylaws state that the PR/Historian is required to "Be responsible to coordinate a yearbook for the region the year of their term." This is an innocuous little line which does not define what a Regional Yearbook is supposed to look like in any way, and no one seemed able to tell me what a Regional Yearbook should look like. And so, I set out to create a scrapbook of the events all around the Michigan Region that any chapter would be polite enough to tell me about. I requested pictures and descriptions of what was happening in them on several occasions, and began creating my tribute to the Michigan Region.

Imagine my chagrin when, more than half-way through the year, I discovered what the Michigan Regional Yearbook is really meant to be. I happened to be scanning some old Regional Newsletters so that I could add them to the Regional Newsletter page on the website, when I came across an article in one of them where the PR/Historian was soliciting... finished scrapbook pages from the individual chapters.

That's right folks, the Michigan Regional Yearbook was meant to be scrapbook pages which were sent to the PR/Historian and displayed at the Regional Convention so that the rest of the Region could see, in one or two pages, what your chapter had been up to during the year! Which makes a lot of sense, really, because no one knows better than *you* what your chapter has been doing during the year.

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And so, in the tradition of what the Regional Yearbook is *meant* to be, I am going to request that you create one or two letter-sized (8.5" by 11") pages with pictures and journaling about what your chapter has been up to in the past year to bring to the Regional Convention in May. This way, even if your chapter does not wish to create an entire Yearbook to enter into the Yearbook Contest, the rest of the Region can still see what your chapter has been up to!

However, since I already have a significant portion of the Regional Yearbook which *I* have been working on done, that one will also be on display right beside the one with your pages! So we'll have *two* Regional Yearbooks on display at the Regional Convention this year!

My apologies for the short notice this gives you for getting your Regional Yearbook pages done, but I am sure that it will not be too difficult a challenge for you to throw together a page or two. We're Phi Theta Kappans, after all! Please bring your completed pages to the Regional Convention and turn them in at the Registration Table upon check-in. I will provide a scrapbook to place them in, so there will be no need to punch holes in the pages.

Let us all work together to make this Yearbook a spectacular one!



## Would You Like to Write a Michigander Article?

### Here Is How You Can!

We need articles, and you want to brag about how wonderful your chapter is! So tell us about it!

What has your chapter been up to lately that you would like to share with the Region? Write us an article about it and submit it to the PR/Historian, and we'll be happy to include it! Articles do not have to be very long, a couple of paragraphs will do. Pictures to add to the articles are always welcome!

Some ideas for articles would be: Your Honors in Action Project, your College Project, what your chapter is doing to promote the C4 (Community College Completion Corp.) initiative, service projects your chapter is involved in or needs help with, fellowship activities your chapter has held, recipes and other miscellaneous items, upcoming events for your chapter which are open for other Phi Theta Kappans to attend, a useful tool which your chapter has used that has helped them in some way, and *anything* to do with Phi Theta Kappa, of course!

If you have any suggestions for articles you would like to see in the Michigander, let us know!

**Submit Articles to:** [michiganregion.ptk@gmail.com](mailto:michiganregion.ptk@gmail.com) or [hopebuell@gmail.com](mailto:hopebuell@gmail.com)

This will be on the web! Check out the Newsletter Page of our website after the Convention and read this at any time or print it out to share with other members of your chapter!

Please send these articles before May 11<sup>th</sup> so we have time to get them into the Newsletter.

Visit our website at: <http://michiganregion.ptk.org>

