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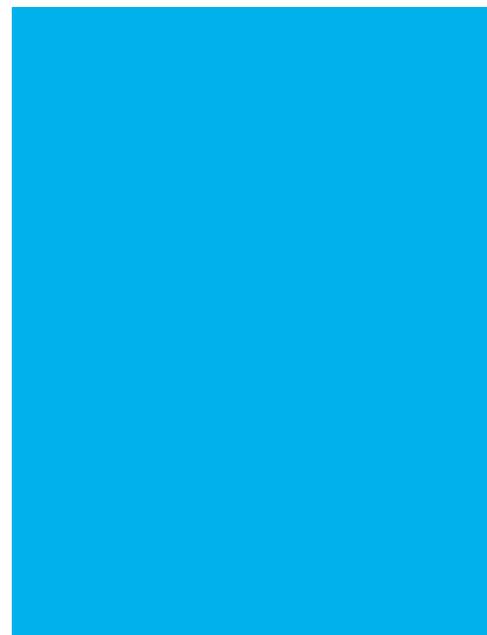
Have You Won a Scholarship?

We want to feature
you in the monthly
newsletter! If you
recently were
awarded a
scholarship, please
contact Hayley at
hayleyyounce.miptk
@gmail.com.

Michigan's Own Named Oberndorf Scholar

Congratulations to Kathy Tahtinen of Alpha Rho Pi at Northwestern Michigan College. She was recently named an Oberndorf Lifeline to Completion Scholar. Tahtinen was one of ten Phi Theta Kappans awarded the \$500 scholarship.

The Oberndorf Lifeline to Completion Scholarship is awarded to help students overcome unexpected financial barriers to complete their degree. Named after Rosemary and Lou Oberndorf, the scholarship aims to help Kappans overcome the financial issues that can prevent a student from completing their education.



A note from Beta Lambda Kappa:

Hello Michigan Region from Beta Lambda Kappa! We hope everyone has enjoyed their summer and is getting ready for another amazing year. We are looking forward to Camp LOC this year as well as being

able to see everyone and meet new faces. We are holding Mini Honors again this year and have been working hard to put together another great weekend. On behalf of our

officer team, Beta Lambda Kappa is looking forward to future fellowships, volunteer opportunities and conferences. Until then, take care and we will see you soon!

Leadership Conference at Camp LOC

Don't miss out on the Michigan Regional Leadership Conference September 5-7 at Leelanau Outdoor Center in Maple City,

Michigan. It will be a weekend full of wonderful team-building activities. For more information, see the attached flyer on page



Honors Institute: Experiencing Frontiers & The Spirit of Exploration

McKenzie Hayes
Chapter President
Omicron Iota Chapter

The Honors Institute in St. Louis, Missouri was a wonderful experience all the way around, from the beautiful campus accommodations to the thought-provoking seminars and the amazing new friends I met. When Sarah Osen and I arrived, we actually ended up taking a tour of the Washington University campus right away trying to find our dorm, and the architecture and landscape were stunning. The accommodations themselves

(continued)

made me feel at home, and the campus employees and students were friendly and welcoming.

During each seminar, I took extensive notes to share with my chapter, and we all learned a lot, especially about how to research, organize, and implement an HIA project. This was invaluable information for my team and me because we haven't done one before. The speakers throughout the week were motivational and got me excited about future innovations in their respective fields. I was particularly interested in Dr. Nina Tandon's talk. Since I'm a cellular and molecular biology major and my team chose Theme #7 Health and Medicine as our HIA topic, it was fascinating to hear the details of what's going on today in the field of tissue engineering. Not only were the seminars thought provoking but discovering the rich history behind St. Louis was also stimulating.

I've been to St. Louis before, but I've never gone to the top of the Gateway Arch or walked around the city, and I was glad I got to experience it with my seminar group.

The highlight of the trip for me was meeting so many absolutely amazing people and hearing everyone's different viewpoints during our seminar group studies. My group bonded quickly, and even though we sometimes strayed from the seminar topic during our discussions, we all learned so much from being able to openly express our viewpoints in a friendly environment. My Honors Institute experience would not have been the same without the wonderful camaraderie I found amongst my PTK family. I loved how the institute ended with all of us having fun together dancing to Pokey LaFarge's music. I believe that it is a testament to how special our PTK family is that in such a short time together I made some



Missed Honors Institute? Don't worry!

Students who attended Honors Institute in St. Louis, Missouri had the opportunity to listen to many great speakers during their experience. Videos of these seminars are available on my.ptk.org for those who were unable to attend. Take the opportunity to check out these amazing speakers!

life-long friends. Thank you all for this awesome experience!

Michigan Region Alumni Association Vice Presidential Election

Hadi Abbas
Interim Vice President
MRAA

There will be an exciting opportunity during the Alumni meeting at this year's Leadership conference at the Leelanau Outdoor Center near Glen Arbor, MI from September 5-7.

During the MI Regional Conference this past May, we had the MRAA board elections, and after the results of the elections the Vice-President office was still open, it is being filled in an interim capacity, but the MRAA will be holding an election for that position during the Alumni Meeting on Saturday September 6th.

The following are the qualifications to run for office from the MRAA

Bylaws:

1. All current, dues-paying members are eligible to become officers.
2. Officers must be active members in good standing who meet all qualifications for membership.
3. Candidates must be present at the convention in order to participate in the election.

The following are the duties of the Vice-President position:

- A. The duties of the Vice-President shall be:
 1. Act as Acting President in the absence the President;
 2. Assist in the election process;
 3. Assist in the planning of the Annual Meeting;
 4. Assist in the creation of the Annual Report;
 5. Assist in recruiting membership; and,
 6. Assist the President when called upon.

If anyone's is interested in running for Vice-President, they should prepare a speech up to 2-minutes about why they are the best candidate for that position.

If there are any questions, feel free to contact any of the MRAA officers:

Jessica Abfalter, President abfaltj@mail.nmc.edu

Hadi Abbas, Interim Vice-President hadio2191@gmail.com

Ashley Flees, Secretary aflees.ptk@gmail.com

Tyler Wessel, Treasurer twessel116@gmail.com

Dan Martiny, PR/Historian prophetsjsb@yahoo.com

Katrina Soper, Alumni Representative kat.soperptk@gmail.com

Tammy Alvaro, Advisor talvaro@midmich.edu

Beach Party Fundraiser for Michael Wisniewski, Jr.

Sarah Bridges
Secretary
Omicron Iota



The Kensington Beach Party hosted by Schoolcraft College's Omicron Iota Chapter was held on Friday, July 25th, where members gathered to enjoy a sunny day filled with music, games, and food. There was a silent auction and caricature artist during the picnic in order to raise donations for former regional president, Michael Wisniewski Jr, who has been suffering from major health problems since last November. He originally suffered a minor heart attack and had three medicated stents put into his Lower Ascending Aorta, and was also prescribed blood thinning medications. Later, he was suspected of having another heart attack and was rushed to the hospital where he was administered medications to which he had a severe reaction, causing him to hallucinate, have delusional thoughts and actions, and skyrocket his ammonia blood levels. It was after this incident that Michael's spleen expanded to twice the normal size, and over time he was put through a battery of tests which later diagnosed him with having Non-Alcoholic Cirrhosis of the Liver. Michael will eventually need to have his spleen removed and possibly undergo a liver transplant surgery. Unfortunately, he cannot safely go through surgery at this time, as he has a profound risk of abnormal bleeding which puts his life in danger. Because of this, Michael and his wife, Margie, are approximately \$6,000 in debt due to medical bills and prescription costs. The Wisniewski family is getting by on Social Security and has large copays and deductibles from their insurance. Margie is currently working hard to become a Registered Medical Assistant to help take care of her husband and pay off their debt, and she is scheduled to graduate April 2015. The Wisniewski family has set up a charity through www.GoFundMe.com in order to help raise money to pay off Michael's upward medical expenses. You can visit this link www.gofundme.com/c91ck8 to make a donation. Michael is an exceptionally kind man and a well-loved member of the Phi Theta Kappa family, and any contributions are immeasurably appreciated.

Alpha Tau Alpha Sister Picnic

Katrina Nelson
Secretary
Alpha Tau Alpha

The Alpha Tau Alpha chapter of PTK hosted what is hoped to be an annual picnic with sister chapters Kirtland (Alpha Omicron Gamma) and Mid Michigan (Alpha Omicron Omicron) on July 19, 2014. Smiles, ideas, and delicious goodies were shared by all who attended at the city park of Harrison, MI.

The idea of a picnic for the chapters was explored at Nerd Nation in April, after it was brought to ATA Chapter VP, Danelle Waite's attention that we had sister regions. She inquired about the Michigan region further and discovered that we also had sister chapters via ATA Chapter President, Sarin Hoogeveen. Thrilled by the prospect of having a chance to further open the lines of communication with our sister chapters; Danelle contacted Michael Owens of Alpha Omicron Omicron and Patricia Saunders of Alpha Omicron Gamma, who became excited about the idea as well and helped pick a central location to meet.

The results of the collaboration were fantastic. The day was filled with various

activities. It was also a wonderful way to touch base with members of the sister chapters to discuss our progress on Hallmarks; and re-establish the spirit of cooperation and fellowship among the chapters.

Phi Theta Kappa is not just a group of intellectuals. It is a organization filled with individuals who are willing to share their strengths, help others when they struggle, and strive for enrichment of the mind. Phi Theta Kappa members bring with them their own experience, and when they share that experience, that is when magic happens. Though our fields of study may vary, we yield that ardor for ideas and uncharted territories. That sense of community is essential to not only the individual, but Phi Theta Kappa itself.

Ata would like to thank everyone who took time to join the chapter for the picnic. A special thank you also goes out to Danelle Waite and her mother, Debbie for planning the event and providing the materials for grilling that day.

Meet The Regional Officers

Liz Powell

President



"I have been a student at Macomb Community College since the fall semester of 2010. I am currently enrolled in two Associate's Degree programs at Macomb, and I am hoping to transfer to Madonna University to complete my Bachelor's Degree Forensic Science and then I would like to transfer to Michigan State University to finish my Master's degree.

I joined the Macomb Community College chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, Beta Lambda Kappa in November of 2011 and was elected the Vice President of Service the following May. In January of 2013, our chapter had a bylaw revision that put me in the position of College Project Coordinator. In May of 2013, I was elected President of our chapter and will complete my term this May.

Phi Theta Kappa has impacted my life in several ways. When I started at Macomb, I did not have any friends and I was so focused on taking my transfer credits and leaving that I didn't notice the possibilities that were out there for me."

"Hello Michigan Region! My name is Anne McLeod and I am the new Regional Vice President for the 2014-2015 academic year. I attend Glen Oaks Community College in Centreville, and I have been a Phi Theta Kappa member since October of 2011. In May 2012 I became our chapter's president (Alpha Delta Omega).

I am currently dual enrolled with Glen Oaks and Spring Arbor University. I am pursuing my second Associates Degree, an Associate of Arts with Glen Oaks, and am pursuing a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Organizational Management with Spring Arbor. I am also very active on campus with Student Ambassadors, College Council, Student Government, and as a student worker.

I moved to the United States in 1998 from England and obtained a job working for a community bank in the loan department. After 13 years in my "temporary" job it was time to pursue something else. I became a full-time student in May of 2011 and have loved it ever since.

I am passionate about continued education, personal growth, servant leadership and helping others to see their own potential. I have completely transformed my life in the last 5 years and am dedicated in helping those who wish to do the same.

Phi Theta Kappa plays a significant role in my life, and I have achieved many things I did not think possible while being a member, including becoming a Regional Officer. I have whole heartedly bought into the mission of Phi Theta Kappa and endeavor to share it with as many people as I can. Go Kappans!"

Anne McLeod

Vice President



Penny Willis

Secretary



"Hello, my name is Penny Willis and I am the 2014-2015 Michigan Regional Secretary. I currently hold the office of Executive Vice President of the Alpha Omicron Psi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Oakland Community College - Royal Oak/Southfield where I am currently pursuing an education in Robotics Repair and Programming.

I was born and raised in the Detroit Metropolitan area as the youngest of seven children, and ironically have seven children as well. After my youngest child graduated high school I decided to return to school in order to further my education. Joining Phi Theta Kappa approximately three years ago was undoubtedly one of the best decisions of my life. I have met some remarkably amazing people during my journey and I want only for the opportunity to share what I have learned with my fellow Phi Theta Kappa members."

"Hello! My name is Hayley Younce and I am the 2014-2015 Michigan Regional PR / Historian. I am also the president of my chapter, Alpha Rho Nu, at Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

I was born in Elyria, Ohio and moved to Minooka, Illinois during my junior year of high school. Throughout high school I was heavily involved in cheerleading, dance, journalism, broadcasting, student council, National Honor Society, and FFA. I graduated from Minooka Community High School in 2012 and moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan to attend Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

I quickly learned about Phi Theta Kappa and was active in the chapter before I was even inducted. A month after my induction, I became an officer and have been a leader in my chapter ever since. I became a regional officer in May of 2014 and am driven to make a difference in our organization.

I plan on transferring to Western Michigan University next year, where I will complete my bachelor's degree in secondary education with a concentration in English and American Sign Language.

Phi Theta Kappa has honestly changed my life. It has opened so many doors for me and provided me with so many opportunities. I have become a more confident and effective leader, and met some of the most incredible along the way. I encourage everyone to take full advantage of what Phi Theta Kappa has to offer."

Hayley Younce

PR / Historian



Katrina
Case-Soper
Alumni Representative



Katrina Case-Soper was raised on a dairy farm in Northern Wisconsin and moved to Central Michigan right before attending high school. Katrina then went on to attend Andrews University, funded primarily through art-based scholarships. She graduated Cum Laude from Andrews University in 2006 with a Bachelors in Fine Arts, emphasis in painting.

Katrina worked in the Chicago area as an artist for a few years until returning to central Michigan in 2009. It was difficult to earn a living from her art sales and commissions; therefore, Katrina decided to go back to school. She was drawn to the medical field due to her personal interests and the reliable employment opportunities available in the health care profession. Katrina first enrolled at Montcalm Community College where she was inducted into Alpha Tau Alpha chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. She served as Public Relations Historian, Chapter President, Michigan Regional Vice President and was a finalist for International Vice President Division III before transferring to Mid-Michigan Community College where, in 2013, she graduated with a degree in Applied Science Radiography. She returned to Montcalm Community College where she received a degree in Liberal Studies and worked as a Professional Science Tutor.

Like many, Katrina has faced adversity after adversity, but she knows her future possibilities are endless. Failure is a part of success, you must let go of fear, take a risk and believe in yourself.

Katrina is currently the Michigan Regional Alumni Representative and also, once again, a full time artist. She has done paintings for organizations across the country, including; Phi Theta Kappa Headquarters, Make a Wish Foundation and your very own Mid-Michigan Community College Foundation. She has also donated many of her paintings to chapters around the country to help them raise funds and one every year to the Michigan Region to help fund a scholarship started during her time as a regional officer.

