

Mitten Inquirer



Greetings from your Regional Team!

Our friends at Alpha Upsilon Kappa Chapter (Grand Rapids Community College) hosted Michigan Region's Mini-Honors Conference November 4-6. Thank you Alpha Upsilon Kappa for stepping up to the challenge! As the article on pages two and three shows, your hard work was certainly appreciated.

Something else took place in Grand Rapids for certain chapters. Some started their Hallmark Entries. Whether you started then or not, they are bound to be dominating your chapter's attention now.

In this issue you will see another development in our region. Chapters are seeing the benefit of teaming up. Coordinating events pools resources, lightens the load, and is a lot more fun!

The Regional Team wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season. As we all look forward to the New Year, we pause to indulge a few memories of 2006.

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Your 2006-2007 Regional Team

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Mini Honors – One Chapter's Experience

Five officers, the two co-advisors, and a brand new member of our chapter attended the Michigan Region's Mini-Honors Conference on November 4, 2006 at Grand Rapids Community College (GRCC). We caravanned there after our Fall Induction on Friday, November 3, and woke up somewhat refreshed to spend an energizing and thought-provoking day attending lectures and discussing a variety of issues that illuminated the honors study topic, "Gold, Gods, and Glory: The Global Dynamics of Power".

Of course, there are numerous, perhaps innumerable, ways to interpret such a vast topic, but the Alpha Upsilon Kappa chapter at Grand Rapids Community College succeeded masterfully by organizing a weekend of lectures, discussions, a conference service project, and a viewing of An Inconvenient Truth, Al Gore's recent film on the causes and effects of global warming.

The lecturers included a geographer, two political scientists, two English professors, two historians, two representatives from the Grand Rapids Institute for Information Democracy, and a facilitator of healing racism. Their lecture topics included "Globalization Examples in Latin America and the Middle East: Two Peoples an Ocean Apart", "U.S. Foreign Policy Since WWII" and the similarly themed "American Foreign Policy: An Application of Just War Theory", "The Power of Media in a Free Society", "College Students and

Civic Engagement for Social Change", "The Supernormal Presidential Powers of George W. Bush", and "American Empire: The Irony of Gold, Gods, and Glory in the World's Greatest Democracy".



Quinn Korreck, President, Alpha Upsilon Kappa, warmly welcomed Michigan honor students to a weekend of scholarship and fellowship.

A recurring theme was, in the words of GRCC English professor and poet David Cope, "...the price nations pay when they are tempted by the supposed glory that comes with war." His lecture explored this topic not through a historian's or political scientist's perspective, but rather through his lens as an English professor and poet; he lectured on Walt Whitman's tenure as a Civil War nurse and his writings from that time, noting "these records make one of the most complex and deeply felt meditations on the price of glory in all literature".

Likewise, the showing of An Inconvenient Truth combines a number of the themes suggested by our honors study topic and Phi Theta Kappa's focus on the environment. Global warming is an issue that affects everyone on earth. As the

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Energy Information Administration (EIA), which publishes the official energy statistics from the U.S. government, states at www.eia.doe.gov, "The U.S. produces about 25 percent of global carbon dioxide emissions from burning fossil fuels, primarily because our economy is the largest in the world, and we meet 85 percent of our energy needs through burning fossil fuels".



From left to right: Patt Dettloff, Michael Gibbs, Jan Akehurst, and Roger Hammonds

As lofty as it sounds, Phi Theta Kappa's Honors Study Topic "Gold, Gods, and Glory: The Global Dynamics of Power", coupled with our environmental service project, seeks to educate and inform us about who we are, the impact we have on geopolitics, and how we can be part of the solutions to many of the world's current problems, including climate change and warfare.

To paraphrase the philosophy of the Twelve Step process, we have to know there are problems before we can begin to solve them. I can't imagine a more fitting topic for today's college students to study, discuss, and hopefully be inspired to take action on – global warming and

the corresponding global dynamics of power.

We're on the Web:

aopptk@yahoo.com

Contributed by Sarah Lemelin, co-advisor, Alpha Omicron Rho (Oakland Community College/Auburn Hills Campus)

Thank you Sarah for your thoughtful and engaging submission.

Memories From 2006



What has the Mayor of Grand Rapids done for the city and why did that make us laugh at Mini Honors?

More Lines Shakespeare Stole from Us Before We had a Chance to Say Them

Action is eloquence.



Blow, blow, thou winter wind
Thou art not so unkind,
As man's ingratitude.



Glory is like a circle in the water,
Which never ceaseth to enlarge
itself,
Till by broad spreading it disperses
to naught.

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Michigan Regional Goals, 2006-07

~One~

Increase Regional and
Chapter Officer &
Alumni Involvement

~Two~ Increase
Chapter & Member
Involvement in Phi
Theta Kappa
Programs, especially
in the Five Star,
Pinnacle, Hallmark
Award, and Project
Graduation Programs

~Three~ Improve
Communication and
Interaction between
Region and
Chapters as well as
among Chapters

~Four~ Improve
and Promote the
Regional Website

~Five~ Promote
Regional and
International
Scholarships

~Six~ Promote
Inter- Regional
Cooperation

~Seven~ Revitalize
Inactive and Less
Active Chapters in
the Region

~Eight~ Encourage
Chapter
Participation in the
Better World Books
Program

~Nine~
Promote the Step Up
Program throughout
the Region

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On the Road With the Regional Team

On November 15 Alpha Nu Eta (Kellogg Community College) held their Fall Induction. At their request, one of our regional officers shared in the occasion by installing the new officers and giving the dismissal comments.



Terah Zaremba (center midground) instructs the inductees on the evening's proceedings.



From left to right: Terah Zaremba (contact advisor), Becky Brush (President), Josh Radi (Vice President), Stephanie Green (Director of Leadership), Lacey Bautista (Director of Scholarship), Michael Nowicke (Executive Assistant)

Alpha Nu Eta has earned 5-star status for three consecutive

years and is on track to earn 5 stars again this year.



Alpha Nu Eta's newest members stand behind their officers and advisor.

The chapter admonishes new inductees to make the induction, "only the beginning of your celebration." They were also told, "Many of you have friends and family here tonight who have supported you. As you continue to celebrate your accomplishments; please remember to celebrate these important individuals as well – they are a vital key to your success. I can assure you that they are tremendously proud of your accomplishments and I hope that you are as proud of yourself as they are of you."

On November 17 Lambda Mu (Saint Clair County Community College) held their Fall Induction. Their Guest Speaker was Kelly Kinkade, PR/Historian, Michigan Region who spoke on "Leadership that is Wise, Pure, and Inspiring."

Lambda Mu was chartered in April of 1961, making it the first chapter of Phi Theta Kappa in Michigan. Thomas Obee, Coordinator, Michigan Region is the

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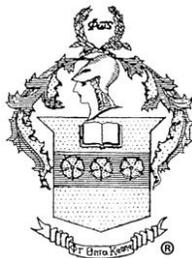
chapter's advisor. Lambda Mu is proving that excellence can be sustained. They have received numerous awards. In 2000, Lambda Mu was recognized at the International Convention as the Number One chapter in the nation.



The officers of Lambda Mu have many reasons to smile. The great job they did with their induction is one reason.



Phi Theta Kappa inductions remind us that when we share knowledge or experience with others, our own is not diminished.



Pictured from left to right: (kneeling) Renee Conger, Yvonne Gabriel, and Janice Kenny (middle row) Kenda Pakulski, Rachel Kobylas, Holly VanBrande, Dan Martini, Cory Christian, Stephanie Smith, and Nicole Ledsworth (back row) Steve Durette, Jean Johnson, Mr. Tom Obee, Kelly Kinkade, and Bob Bednard.



Don't forget to take your "postcard picture" when you visit another chapter.

He Was No Vice President of Scholarship, that's for Sure

PARIS (Reuters) - What's a television without its remote control? Not much, decided a thief in southwestern France who returned to the home from which he had just stolen a TV to pick up the remote control — and was arrested.

From <http://www.dumbcriminals.com/burglaries/tivoh-my-god/#more-671>

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Service in our Region

The Omicron Iota Chapter at Schoolcraft College in Livonia, MI hosted a Wildlife Conservation Day in honor of the current 2006-08 International Service Program - Operation Green: Improving Our Communities.

Members from Omicron Iota and our sister chapter Alpha Xi Mu (Henry Ford CC in Dearborn, MI) assisted children and their parents from the community in building 16 Loon Nests and 16 Owl Boxes.



Who's there? Roger Hammonds of course!

These nests and boxes were built in an effort to help restore some of the habitats that have been destroyed by urban development.



Carolyn Verla, Alumni Representative, Michigan Region and others put on the finishing touches at the Painting Station.



Omicron Iota members investing "sweat equity" into the improvement of their community



After the shows the building process began. We were able to construct and paint all 16 owl boxes and create 16 loon nests. They have been donated to the Wildlife Recovery Association of Michigan and the Michigan Loon Association.

Submitted by Roger Hammonds, VP of Service
Omicron Iota Chapter
Phi Theta Kappa
Schoolcraft College

Thank you Roger for your volunteer service and for informing us about Omicron Iota's Wildlife Conservation Day.

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Sibling Rivalry? No Way! Try Sibling Synergy

Sibling rivalry takes place when brothers or sisters fight for parental attention or out of jealousy. Family familiarity can breed contempt! Something entirely different showed itself across the Michigan Region last month.

Synergy occurs when the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. For example, a car is valuable because of how its parts work together. A group of tires, doors, and gears only transports a person to their goal if the parts cooperate.

Omicron Iota (Schoolcraft College), Alpha Xi Mu (Henry Ford CC), and Alpha Omicron Xi (Oakland CC/Orchard Ridge campus) have teamed up to help a great cause. Once a month they volunteer at Saint Leo's in Detroit. Saint Leo's helps feed the hungry, provides donated clothing to the needy, and arranges for doctor care and dental care several times a month for the homeless.

On November 18, volunteers from four Phi Theta Kappa chapters did everything from serving warm meals and washing trays to making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and wiping off tables.

Another example of cooperation among chapters is found in the four sister chapters of Alpha Omicron Rho, Alpha Omicron Kappa, Alpha Omicron Psi, and Alpha Omicron Xi. For three months they have held a monthly Chapter Presidents' Meeting. Rotating among their respective campuses, the meetings pool the experience of

current and former Presidents and their advisors.



Four sister chapters combining experience.

Pictured from left to right:

(seated): LaTina Johnson, Zamira Aliko
(back row): Jeff Albrecht, Michelle Casanova (Advisor), Jan Akehurst (Advisor), Paul R. Salgado Jr., Sally Hanna (Advisor), Kelly Kinkade, Sarah Lemelin (co-advisor)

Michigan cooperation goes beyond the chapter level. At our Mini Honors Conference we were pleased to host two regional officers from our sister region, Alabama.

(see *Sibling Synergy* p. 9)



Michael Gibbs President, and Kate Tully Vice President of Communications, Alabama Region made the trip to our Mini-Honors.

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(Sibling Synergy cont.)

Michigan chapters showed a cooperative spirit when they helped our guests secure lodging, showed them we were happy they were there, and Alpha Upsilon Kappa, the host chapter, used these leaders in responsible roles during the conference. Their enthusiasm, leadership, and humor added so much to our conference!

Memories From 2006



What happens when honors students from Alabama go two days without sweet tea?

- A moment of silence five years later.
- What did I get myself into when I ran for chapter officer?
- How could such an innocent looking accident cause so much injury?
- Will these political ads ever end?
- Dr. Trombley
- Wolverines, Tigers, Pistons, and Red Wings all got us going, but not too much.
- Now that I finally know what I'm doing, I have to graduate?

And the Winner is... Michigan!

Regional Officers in Michigan will receive special recognition for leading the region to achieve 100 percent chapter enrollment in the 2006 Pinnacle Scholarship Award Program. Officers of all regions with 100 percent chapter enrollment will be recognized during Phi Theta Kappa's 2007 International Convention and on the website.

The Pinnacle Scholarship Award Program recognizes regions for enhancing membership acceptance.

From <http://ptk.org/knb/dec06/h1201065.html> Posted: December 01, 2006

Celebrating Phi Theta Kappa

Phi Theta Kappa observes its birthday on Founders Day, November 19. Phi Theta Kappa was founded in 1918 by presidents of two-year colleges in Missouri. The founders were seeking to recognize scholastic achievement by their students, and to establish a common purpose and standard for honors organizations on their different campuses. The founders chose to model their new Society after the prestigious senior honor society, Phi Beta Kappa. The name "Phi Theta Kappa" was taken from the initial letters of the three Greek words meaning "wisdom," "aspiration" and "purity."

Eleven years later, Phi Theta Kappa was officially recognized by the American Association of Junior Colleges on November 19, the date now traditionally observed as the Society's Founders Day.

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