



THE MICHIGANDER



OCTOBER 2009, VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

Let's Get Acquainted!

President Dan Karlskin



Hello Michigan Region, My name is Daniel Karlskin and it is an honor to introduce myself as the Michigan Region President for 2009-2010. I am currently attending Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City, home of the Alpha Rho Pi chapter. My future plans are to, hopefully, run for an International Officer Position this coming spring and if not, I will be graduating with a degree in Business Administration and a degree in Accounting. Just a few fun facts that I would like to share are: I love to meet new people, attend Phi Theta Kappa events and travel. If your chapter is hosting an event, I would love to attend! I look forward to meeting all of the wonderful people in the MICHIGAN REGION!

Public Relations/Historian Trisha Mailloux



Hello Michigan Region! My name is Trisha Mailloux and I am honored to serve as your regional Public Relations/Historian. I also hold the Treasurer position for my chapter, Beta Lambda Kappa at Macomb Community College. I have been an officer now for two years and prior to that an active member. I sincerely

enjoy all the opportunities it has provided me to meet new people and make great friends while learning many valuable skills. Whenever I get a free moment I love doing arts and crafts, baking, as well as spending time with family, friends, and my wonderful boyfriend. Right now I am pursuing an Associates of Baccalaureate Studies. I plan to transfer to Wayne State University to pursue a Masters Degree in Occupational Therapy next Fall. After graduating I plan to get a job helping children cope with their limitations to live a happy, healthy, normal life. I chose that field because I love to help people and feel that would be the perfect niche for me to excel and make a difference in the world at the same time. I can't wait to meet and get to know as many of you as possible so next time you see me, say hi and let's talk!

Vice President Sherry Rietz



Sherry joined Phi Theta Kappa after her first semester at Oakland Community College. She has always loved to work hard helping other people. In her senior year, Sherry became pregnant and was told right before graduation that she did not deserve to graduate and was kept from walking across the stage by her guidance counselor. Even though she continued to fight it, it became harder and less important as she gave birth to her little girl. Three months later Sherry Ellis became Sherry Rietz when she married her boyfriend of 4 years. She worked as a professional cake decorator for 5 years when the bakery suddenly closed and she had enough. She went back to an adult education program and finished with her high school diploma. She will finally get to walk across the stage as Student Marshall in June 2010. Sherry will transfer to Marygrove College with a full ride. She has been happily married for 7 years and now has four beautiful girls.

Treasurer/Secretary Jacob Smallegan



Hello Phi Theta Kappans!! My name is Jacob Smallegan and I am proud to serve as the Secretary/Treasurer of our magnificent Michigan Region. Not only do I have this honor but I am also honored to be the President of the Beta Xi Xi chapter at Muskegon Community College. I joined Phi Theta Kappa back in September of 2008 and I've enjoyed every minute of it. My two biggest loves are writing and traveling. Phi Theta Kappa has given me the opportunity to see new places and meet wonderful new people. Currently I am pursuing my Associates in Science and Art and I've finally decided to transfer to Western Michigan University for my BA in Creative Writing with a double minor in Practical Writing and Japanese. The end result will be a one year study abroad in Japan before Graduate School and becoming a teacher and writer.



Meet This Year's Mentors

Kari Kahler

Regional Coordinator



Kari is excited to begin her role as the Michigan Regional Coordinator and knows that she has some big shoes to fill (see related story). She is excited to continue the work of the two previous coordinators—Gail Knapp and Tom Obee as the MI Region comes of age. This is the

21st year as our own Region of Phi Theta Kappa and we may wonder; what we will become as we grow into adulthood! That question will be answered by each of us as we determine how we will contribute our gifts and talents for the betterment of the Region. Even though I have been a chapter advisor for a number of years; I know I will be on a learning curve in my new role. Please feel free to share your ideas and suggestions with me on my own learning journey! I look forward to getting to know all of you, listening to your dreams and visions of what we can accomplish as individuals, as chapters and as a Region! Thank you for your support and I look forward to growing with you as leaders making a difference on our campuses, in our communities, our Region and our World!

Alumni Representative

Roger Hammonds



Roger has six years of experience with Phi Theta Kappa. He is on the Michigan Region Alumni Association executive board for his third year after serving as a chapter officer for two terms with Schoolcraft College's Omicron Iota chapter. He currently is enrolled in two classes at Walsh College pursuing his Bachelor of Accountancy. Roger works full-time

in accounts receivable for a building supply company that services all of Michigan. His long-term goals include working as an International Accountant, traveling the globe, and helping make the world a better place. Roger's thirst for knowledge, strong work ethic, and the desire to help individuals succeed is what keeps him in involved with Phi Theta Kappa.



(left to right: Roger, Trisha, Kari, Dan, Sherry, in front Jacob)

The Region Also Wants to Recognize: Former Regional Coordinator Thomas Obee



Mr. Obee has been very instrumental in the success of the Michigan Region over the years. He has provided an immense amount of wisdom, guidance and an unforgettable sense of humor. He will be greatly missed. We will however, continue to keep him in our thoughts and prayers while he takes some much needed time to focus on his health. We wish him

a speedy recovery with hopes we will see him again soon at a future conference or convention. His teaching career includes mainly philosophy and logic, as well as English. He teaches at St. Clair County Community College, in Port Huron. In his free time he enjoys science fiction and fantasy literature, growing things, and assisting students in any way he can. Phi Theta Kappa would not be the same without him! Feel free to send him an email at tobee@sc4.edu or give him a ring to let him know you are thinking of him. He would love to hear from you and hear all about the progress you and your chapter are making. Because of you Mr. Obee, Michigan Region Rocks!!!



Mackinac Bridge on the way to Leadership/Mock Chapter Conference in Escanaba

Updates in the Michigan Region By Your Regional Officers

News from Dan:

C.O.R.E. (Chapter Officer Regional Encouragement) Program-This program allows/encourages communication between Chapter and Regional Officers. For a detailed flyer please visit

<http://www.michiganregion.ptk.org>

Mid-Michigan BBQ-On September 20th Mid Michigan Community College had an amazing BBQ in which several members from other chapters were able to attend, including two Regional Officers.

Building Houses-The Michigan Region has also participated in building/reconstructing houses for Hurricane Katrina victims in New Orleans through Habitat for Humanity. The project lasted from September 24th through September 27th.

News from Jacob:

Alpha Delta Omega at Glen Oaks Community College has been hard at work on preparing our annual Mini Honors Conference! I've also received word that Sigma Psi at Southwestern Michigan College has revitalized their officer team and I know that Michigan Region is ready with open arms to welcome them back.

Are you curious about the budget? Check out <http://www.freewebs.com/miptk/regionalinformation.htm> for the entire approved budget.

Please take a look at our new Regional Directory at <http://www.freewebs.com/miptk/chapterinformation.htm> and email me at academic_owl@live.com with any updates.

News from Trisha:

How is everyone doing on your Regional Project? For those who forgot, the Project is taking items you normally throw away and using them to create a new beneficial item that is useful. An example of this is using empty egg cartons to create little flower pots. If you haven't started working on it, the clock is ticking! The 2010 Regional Convention at Macomb Community College will be here before you know it! If you have additional questions feel free to contact a Regional Officer or check out our website at: <http://www.michiganregion.ptk.org>

News from Sherry:

So how is every one doing with the regional challenge? I hope it is going well. I know it just seems like another paper to write, but knowing more about the area you live in could give you a whole new perspective. Who knows, maybe it will encourage you to run for Mayor! I mean, we are Phi Theta Kappans!

News from Roger:

The Michigan Region Alumni Association continues to remain active this year attending and volunteering at events and conferences; hosting hospitality events; judging and facilitating regional scholarships; sponsoring a \$250 scholarship; and even donating to the Hites Foundation! Seek the alumni for guidance though your Phi Theta Kappa experience, they are always willing to help.



What's Happening?

From Around the Region

Alpha Rho Pi

Northwestern Michigan College
by Marisa Glazier



Alpha Rho Pi Officer Team

This year Alpha Rho Pi is very proud to have a grand total of nine ambitious officers. After several summer planning sessions, our chapter has decided to study the Honor Study Topic, The Paradox of Affluence; Choices, Challenges, and Consequences from a different perspective each month. To do so, we are taking the different ways the honors topic can be interpreted, as listed in the Honors Study Program Guide, and applying those perspectives to each month, with a free movie, a speaker and a service project that are aligned with the view.

For example, this September we have chosen to look at the Paradox of Affluence through the economy of the student. We are going to have a free viewing of "Slumdog Millionaire", with a discussion held afterward by one of our economic professors. Later in the month we have a free speaker for the students and the community, Paul Sutherland, who has written several books on the economy, one of his most notable is "Creating Life Success: The Zenvesting Way". Our service project for the month is collecting school supplies that will be used next year for local children in need of supplies. We have a painted school bus made from recycled Better World Book boxes in the library as a drop off spot and will have it at the library for a few months and then will donate the supplies to the Sunrise Rotary for the children.

Looking ahead to October, our viewpoint will be that of the environment. We will be playing for free the movie Wall E and will have one of our chemistry professors host a discussion about the environment and how it affects us all. For a speaker, we are planning to have a panel of science professors discuss

how our college can decrease our carbon footprint. Our service project will involve water quality and perhaps involve helping to send materials to Africa for clean water to be obtained.

We have also been very lucky to have our college President, Tim Nelson, attend one of our weekly 8:00 a.m. meetings to listen to our plans for each month and also listen to our ideas for our college project, which will involve a recycling initiative for the college's campuses. He was very excited to hear our plans and hopefully we will be able to work with him throughout the year.

Aside from our monthly plans involving the Honors Topic, we also have been involved in the Adopt-a-Beach Cleanup where some of our officers and members cleaned up a local stretch of beach, we also will be cleaning our adopted stretch of highway along Cass Rd. near our college, and will once again help cut and sew pillows to donate to the local Munson Hospital for patients who are receiving care for breast cancer. Although being very busy with these wonderful projects, we also try to find time to have fun within our chapter. Whether this is having desserts at our meetings, meeting for a bonfire, or getting together for bowling, our chapter is all about fun and giving back to our college and community.

Nu Omicron Update

Alpena Community College
by Advisor Dr. Karol L. Walchak

Our group has decided to contribute to a plaque entitled "Dedicated in Memory of, and Honor of those ACC Students, past, present and future, who dared to dream." In addition, we'll be taking a Soo Locks Boat Tour/Dinner Cruise. Lastly, we have started two drives: 1) Ink Cartridges for our local Humane Society and box tops and Campbell Soup labels for Education. In these difficult economic times, we are trying to find ways for people to contribute without emptying their wallets.



Nu Omicron's Trip to the Soo Locks



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*Modlin Center, University of Richmond,
International Honors Institute Location*

What's Happening? From Around the Region

Beta Xi Xi

Muskegon Community College
by **Becky Oldaker & Jacob Smallegan**

We here at Muskegon Community College have been hard at work at a brand new event! Beta Xi Xi is asking students, faculty, and staff to consider the Paradox of Affluence, and submit art pieces that reflect that topic. How do wealth and abundance affect our campus, our city, our country, or our world? How does it affect us as individuals? What signs are seen that contradict the notion that the U.S. is a wealthy country? These are just examples of the kinds of things that can be explored in their artwork.

The Showcase will begin on Monday, October 26th in the Gerber Lounge on campus, where visual arts will be displayed all week. Submissions in this category can include paintings, sculptures, photographs and other media. There will be a Penny War, in which visitors may vote on their favorite pieces by donating pennies. All pennies collected will be donated to Habitat For Humanity.

On Tuesday, October 27th at 6:00 p.m. there will be a Performing Arts Showcase where artists can sing, dance, show a short film, or perform a skit. The performances will be at the Overbrook Theater. Written submissions such as poems and short stories

may be submitted and will be published in a booklet available for purchase during the week of Showcase. Money collected for the booklets will also be donated to Habitat For Humanity.

The last day of the Arts Showcase will be Friday, October 30th. There will be a closing ceremony at 4 p.m. that day. All artists will receive recognition for their submissions. The winners of the penny war will be announced, along with the amount of money raised for Habitat For Humanity.

We are excited to introduce this exciting new event and look forward to a great turn out.

Beta Lambda Kappa

Macomb Community College
No Make-Ups! by Michael Hooten



Elections generally cannot be reversed, so it is every voter's responsibility to study for the big test of electing an official. Our chapter's College Project will help with that. We are researching the 2010 election and reporting on what we learn.

The key to success is that we stay unbiased and only report on the issues. We need lots of help, and you can be a part of making history. There is research to be done, essays to write, filming to do, and parties to attend.

That's right, parties. Politicians throw parties that they call "rallies" where they discuss with their supporters what issues they are taking a stand on. We need people to attend these rallies and learn what the candidates are all about.

We also need volunteers for voting registration drives, and people that want a chance to have their name put in the history books by writing essays about the issues in the upcoming election. Get involved, get in touch with our chapter's officers today and let them know you want to help! Remember, there are no make-ups!



Big Shoes to Fill

By Kari Kahler



Mrs. Kari Kahler
Michigan Regional
Coordinator

I am honored to have been nominated by many of you in the Michigan Region and selected by Headquarters to serve as your Regional Coordinator. The task seems a tad daunting as Tom/Mr. Obee has left some big shoes to fill! For those of you in attendance at Leadership/Mock Chapter, the love and admiration shown in creating the video for Mr. Obee was humbling! He has inspired the MI Region through his love of Phi Theta Kappa. Many of you know that his involvement with Phi Theta Kappa has spanned the

decades. He was inducted as a member of the Lambda Mu Chapter when he was a student at St. Clair County Community College, transferred to the University of MI and then returned to SC4 to teach. He became the Honors Program Director and Chapter Advisor and in 1997 became our Regional Coordinator. I was a very new advisor at that time and watched him help heal the Region; always keeping true to the mission of Phi Theta Kappa and instilling the foundation of the hallmarks—a true servant leader, dedicated to scholarship and understanding the value of fellowship!

As I reflect on how much he has given to the Region, I need to share two poignant lessons from literature. For those of you familiar with Plato, the Greek Philosopher (428 – 347 B.C.); to me, Tom/Mr. Obee is the *Philosopher King*. Plato believes that the best leaders in society are those who philosophize, who care deeply about truth and lead with integrity and an overriding concern about the welfare of the organization. (Phi Theta Kappa Leadership Studies Text) Mr. Obee was known for fueling/feeding some heated discussions following the honors seminar series when he thought a speaker had strayed too far (usually to the left) on a topic without providing a counter-argument. Not one to accept what was presented as the only truth he would

provide information for you to consider another point of view.

Fast forward to the 21st Century and the work of Kouzes and Posner, (2006) Tom/Mr. Obee has definitely left his mark, his legacy on the Region! “By asking ourselves how we want to be remembered, we plant the seeds for living our lives as if we matter. By living each day as if we matter, we offer up our own unique legacy. By offering up our own unique legacy, we make the world we inhabit a better place than we found it.” (p. 6) No matter when your life intersected with Phi Theta Kappa and the MI Region we have all been fortunate to have the “rock—Tom/Mr. Obee ” behind the proverbial chant ...*Michigan Rocks!*...as our Regional Coordinator! We thank you for the lessons you have shared, the passion you have modeled and the legacy you have inscribed upon our hearts and minds. Be well and know that you are loved!



Mr. Thomas “Tom” Obee
Michigan Regional Coordinator
1997-2009

Phi Theta Kappa Cheer

Phi Theta Kappa! Who's not here?
Mr. Obee whom we hold dear!
As our leader, you bring out our best!
From North to South, and East to West!
We're sending you a Phi Theta Kappa Cheer!
We love you Mr. Obee!
Michigan Region Rocks!



Tricks of the Trade

Recruitment Tips

Gain exposure on campus by:

- Posting flyers to bulletin boards
- Announcing events and meetings on
 - marquees
 - campus television
 - screensavers
 - college newspapers
- Asking faculty to mention orientations and meetings
- Making announcements to your classes/classmates
- Attending events of other campus groups
- Inviting other campus groups to your events
- Soliciting outside campus bookstore during busiest weeks
- Sending emails to faculty, eligible members, and current members
- Brag about getting to travel to your classmates. It will give them a little more incentive to check it out.
- Wear your Phi Theta Kappa clothing; try to get them to ask you questions. Especially on Meeting days! Then you could invite them to meetings
- Try to change your bulletin areas often. It will make you seem active even though they may not know who you are. They will ponder!
- Get an information table out as much as possible. Even if it is just manned by a TV showing a Phi Theta Kappa DVD. Or make a DVD of your own with your film class and show that.

Scholarship is of worth chiefly when it is productive, when the scholar not merely receives or acquires, but gives.

~T. Roosevelt, The Outlook, 1/13/12

Orientation Tips

When you are presenting Phi Theta Kappa at Membership Orientations, focus more on the benefits, fun/fellowship, and experiences that they will have by becoming more involved. Give a personal example or story of how Phi Theta Kappa has benefited you. Use the recruitment video from Headquarters; it has several good clips to show potential members. These are just a few tips that will help membership recruitment. Just remember, you're not limited to what you can do, so let your creativity fly!

Member Participation Tips

Every new member has to fill out an application. On the application it asks for information as to what study programs/colleges your new member is interested in. (If yours doesn't, add it) Today all universities and colleges want to know not just your GPA, but what you have done for your community. You can divide your membership into categories by college or area of study. Group them together and send out emails to all in one category saying something like, "Dear Music Major, most music department heads have tons of great students to choose from when handing out scholarships. This month we will be organizing a Christmas music program for our local elementary school. Being a part of the organization and execution of this project will give you needed credentials that will put you above the rest on your application. Please consider helping your future, community, and Phi Theta Kappa chapter. For more information..." This gives members an added incentive to help out.

Q & A For your Regional Officers

Q: How can we boost Phi Theta Kappa awareness on campus and in the community?

A: In order to boost awareness, distribute flyers/posters on tables and bulletin boards explaining Phi Theta Kappa, using word of mouth and multiple types of media such as college/community radio, college/community calendars. Any form of advertising you can think of will be beneficial (Facebook, Myspace, Twitter, etc.)

Do you have a question you want answered? Submit it to one of your Regional Officers to be featured in our future newsletter!



Quality Time with the Region



*Michigan and Alabama Regional Officers
University of Richmond,
International Honors Institute*

Timeless

by Jacob Smallegan

Dedicated to all my Phi Theta Kappa friends:

We meet but for a moment, fleeting time shifts through our finger tips. Exchanging ideas and stories that open new doors. The future is waiting to be written and we'll do it together. A friendship forged with Fate's red thread unbreakable.

Distance makes the heart grow fonder but we're never really far apart as a family of life-long friends. I'll hold our memories a breast, smiling into the sun. Welcoming this bright new future, full of wonder, knowing we'll cross paths again someday.

Some Yooper Funnies

by Joe Shaw



- In the U.P., one day it's warm, the rest of the year it's cold.
- People who have say "I have half a mind to go to the U.P." have all the right equipment....
- If you fly a straight line from Sault Ste. Marie to Ironwood, you'll see a lot of trees.

A few years back, on the opening day of deer season, Eino and Toivo went hunting together. Sure enough, as was bound to happen with Eino and Toivo in the same swamp with guns, Eino accidentally shot Toivo. Well, Eino jumps into the truck, drives down to the nearest bar and calls the ambulance. Soon, the police, game wardens, fire trucks, paramedics and the ambulance all show up at the scene of the tragedy. The paramedics work frantically on Toivo while a nervous Eino waits nearby. Finally, one of the exhausted paramedics comes over to Eino. "I'm sorry," he says, "We did everything we could. We just couldn't save him." "OH NO!" cries Eino. "My best friend! What will I do? I'm so sorry, Toivo! What could I have done to save you?" "Well," said the paramedic, with a look of disgusted anger on his face, "It would've helped if you hadn't gutted him first!"

Phi Theta Kappa Wordsearch

P	Y	S	E	I	A	P	G	C	R
I	O	R	L	F	P	I	D	R	H
H	O	O	B	E	P	H	K	E	R
S	P	N	A	L	A	S	E	T	E
R	E	O	T	L	K	R	C	P	G
A	R	H	T	O	A	E	O	A	I
L	K	I	E	W	T	D	N	H	O
O	R	N	G	S	E	A	V	C	N
H	A	I	R	H	H	E	E	K	A
C	M	M	O	I	T	L	N	C	L
S	L	R	F	P	I	O	T	O	C
V	L	L	N	R	H	T	I	M	F
F	A	F	U	H	P	H	O	B	U
L	H	S	O	I	S	A	N	J	N

Convention
Fellowship
Fun
Hallmark
Leadership
Mini Honors

Mock Chapter
Phi Theta Kappa
Regional
Scholarship
Unforgettable
Yooper



Fellowship is Fun

by Rose McDonald



With an aggressive goal of getting 300 new members this year (28% more than last year) we decided to take a new approach on Fellowship and our meeting format. We start meetings with a fun ice breaker, and end with a fellowship activity. We also make sure our meetings and events are publicized by having flyers up on our schools bulletin

boards, something that was not utilized in the past. During every officer meeting we write personal thank you notes to members for attending things or helping out.

Fellowship has always been a part of everything we do, but most members don't know what the word fellowship means. To me fellowship is fun, things like meeting new people, and making friends. I have tried to include more fun in all of our activities and meetings.

During our September meeting we played a get to know you ice breaker where members were broken into groups and told to find things they all had in common (besides things like arms and legs). We continued sharing what we discovered about our new friends and continued on with the meeting. Afterwards meeting we had a fun kickball game where we just had a good time.

On November 14th we will offer a new ice breaker and a basketball game: Beta Lambda Kappa vs. our sister chapters. **Alpha Omicron Psi, Alpha Omicron Xi, and Lambda Mu: We want you! The battle begins at 2pm!** This will allow members to meet people from other chapters and get a better idea of what fellowship is all about. For December we have planned a Holiday party with a white elephant gift exchange and pizza at Cici's.

As a result of all of our hard work planning events and making everything a little more fun our membership participation has increased. Everyone seems to be making friends and becoming more active members of our chapter. Of course I couldn't have done it alone, I have a great team to thank for all of their efforts.

Upcoming Events

Please join us:

92nd International Convention

April 8-10, 2010

**Walt Disney World Swan
and Dolphin Resort**

Orlando, FL

More info at <http://convention.ptk.org>

Regional Convention

May 21-23, 2010

Host: Beta Lambda Kappa

Macomb Community College

14500 E. 12 Mile Rd,
Warren, MI 48088

Message From The Editor

By Trisha Mailloux

Public Relations/Historian

There are many things going on within the Michigan Region and we want to use this opportunity to share events within the chapters. This way you can see what is going on with your fellow Phi Theta Kappans across the state. So I hope you enjoyed the reincarnation of The Michigander. We will be publishing several per year.

We would love to have your input and find out what is going on with your chapter. Please consider being a part of this newsletter by submitting your articles of events, upcoming happenings, poems, pictures, recipes and whatever else you can think of to the PR/Historian Trisha Mailloux. Let your imagination run wild and get your name in print for all of the Michigan Region to see. Please send all of your submissions to:

patricia.mailloux@yahoo.com

You can also find us on the internet at:

<http://www.michiganregion.ptk.org>

We will be adding pictures of recent events there as well, so join the group today and submit photos from your chapter's events! It's the best way to stay informed on upcoming events and keep in touch with your regional officers.

A big thanks to everyone for getting me articles, pictures, and helping out with questions. This organization as well as this newsletter could not be possible without all of you! The next time you see me around, stop and say hi! I look forward to meeting more of you at our upcoming events, and taking your picture for our yearbook.

For More Information

please contact any of your Regional Officers!