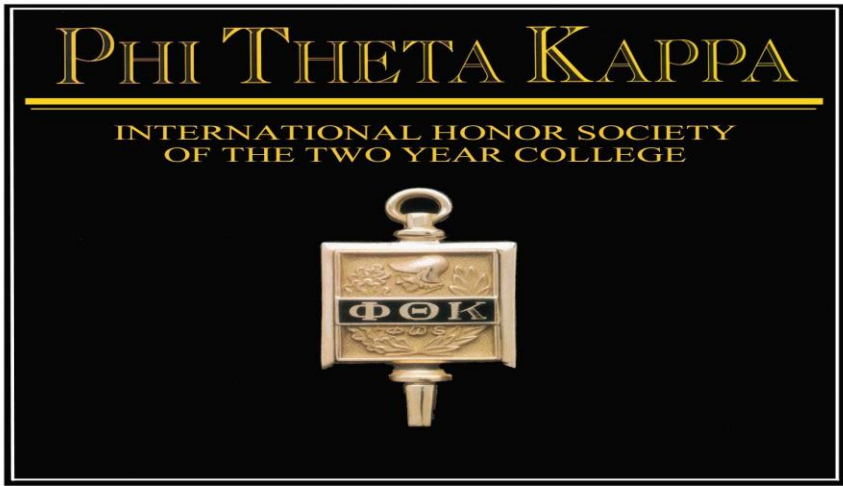


THE ATHENIAN



Dates & Deadlines

June 20-25: 2016 Honors Institute

July 4: Center for Excellence
Closed

July 14-17: Leadership Faculty
Certification Session, Pomona,
California

July 21-24: Leadership Faculty
Certification Session, St. Louis,
Missouri

July 28-31: Leadership Faculty
Certification Session, Atlanta,
Georgia

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COMPETITIVE EDGE

XI PI

As the spring 2016 semester came to a close, the leaders of Polk State College's Xi Pi chapter began to notice an alarming trend in membership levels. Regardless of when each member joined Phi Theta Kappa, over half of Xi Pi's membership was scheduled to graduate at the end of the spring semester, cutting membership by more than half. A lack of members tends to directly affect the productivity of the chapter. Additionally, the conclusion of officer elections resulted in five brand new officers serving under a sole veteran, President Yael Sykes. In order to overcome the steep drop in membership, as well as the relative inexperience of most of the new officers, the first move of the new officer team had to be a confident step in the right direction. Within the first month of our term, all officers completed the Competitive Edge course online. Not only did the course refine our soft skills, such as business etiquette and public speaking, but it also helped the officers gain some experience in selecting and researching an Honors in Action topic. Completing the course gave the officer team newfound abilities, confidence, and enthusiasm for the upcoming year.

Having completed Competitive Edge and officer training sessions, the officer team has now jumped into planning for the year to come. From fundraising, to increasing membership, to planning projects, there is plenty to keep us busy throughout the summer. We are confident that with careful preparation and hard work we will be able to overcome the obstacles we are presented with throughout the upcoming year. Although Xi Pi's new officer team is already facing several challenges, we are, as the saying goes, "taking the bull by the horns." With a month of training behind us we are excited to see what opportunities and adventures the coming year holds.



PHI THETA KAPPA
Honor Society



Often referred to as the "crown jewel" in honors programming, Phi Theta Kappa's Honors Institute is an intensive week-long exploration of Phi Theta Kappa's [Honors Study Topic and Honors in Action](#). Features of the event include internationally recognized speakers, small group seminars, educational field trips and experiential activities.

Established in 1968 and hosted each June on a four-year college campus, the event annually draws an attendance of approximately 500 members and advisors from across the globe.



FINALS!

Alpha Zeta Tau

The executive officers of the Alpha Zeta Tau chapter (AZT) of Phi Theta Kappa strive to achieve fellowship and academic excellence college-wide, which was indeed the goal when we decided to host a math and science final exam review session in the St. Petersburg College (SPC) Tarpon Springs library. We collaborated with Student Life and Leadership, Student Government Association, and the library staff, including many of the math and science tutors. With aid from many AZT officers, we were successfully able to help students study and review for their final exams. We had tutors and volunteers busy at work helping with topics such as calculus, statistics, differential equations, chemistry, biology, and physics. The executive officers and Academic Advisors, Bill Hemme and Laurel Miller, organized set-up and clean-up tasks to be completed for this event. The final exam review started on Saturday, April 30 at 10:00am, and ended at 4:00pm.

Our chapter wanted to make this studying experience as inviting and stress free as possible. As an added incentive for students to join, we worked with outside sources such as Domino's pizza for students and volunteers to enjoy, a stress puppies organization for relaxation, and the local YMCA and B+N College Bookstore for door prizes, which AZT officers took turns raffling off on hourly intervals. The goal was to give enough opportunity for the students of SPC to stop by at any point during the day to get some help, no matter how big or small the issue. When each student came into the library, he or she was required to sign in with his or her name and student number. After signing in, each student was given one raffle ticket to hand in for pizza and one to put in a raffle box to get prizes. The raffle included items like YMCA t-shirts, two free one-month memberships, and an SPC water bottle. In addition, the library had snacks and water throughout the rest of finals week, along with stress puppies every day. The AZT chapter plans to expand the boundaries of this event and perhaps bring in ideas for a service projects in the future. Our goal as a chapter is to help all students so that they can succeed not only in school, but also in their future endeavors.

RELAY FOR LIFE

ALPHA BETA BETA

The Alpha Beta Beta Chapter of Hillsborough Community College at Ybor City participated in the Relay For Life at the University of South Florida campus in Tampa. As this year's theme was games, we decided to go with our advisor's favorite board game: Taboo. Essentially the game has cards with a word your team must guess from your hints, but you're not allowed to say any of the "Taboo" words on the card when giving those hints. Running with this theme, we created two types of cards: a PTK card which had our hallmarks as the taboo words and a cancer survivor card which had familiar words of relation like "hope", "research", "spirit" etc. Not only were we getting the word out about Phi Theta Kappa, but we were also working to raise money by challenging people to play Taboo with us (for a price!) and selling little backpacks filled with survivor-themed merchandise. The next morning our group packed up and made their way back to Ybor City to participate in another Relay For Life at The Cuban Club, which marked the first Relay hosted there. Our Advisor, Myria Evans, who also helped organize the event, and Lance Wood and Dakota McCollum, chapter President and Vice President respectively, walked well into the day to continue working to raise money and spread awareness. In the end, participants at the USF Relay were able to raise approximately \$58,000 and we were thrilled to find out an additional \$8,000 was raised at the Relay at the Heights in Ybor City! In total, over \$100,000 was raised for the American Cancer society. All this while getting to know our fellow students, and letting people know what we can accomplish as Phi Theta Kappans.



SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK

PI GAMMA

April 23, 2016, was the 400th anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare. In his honor, on the evening of April 28th, the Pi Gamma (Florida College) chapter of Phi Theta Kappa co-hosted “All the World’s a Stage: An Evening Celebrating Shakespeare. The other hosting organization was the Florida College Footlighters, the campus drama club. Three faculty members — two from the English department and one from the Communication department — offered brief presentations on topics of special interest to them. Dr. Norene MacDonald, who teaches Shakespearean drama at Florida College, focused on the history plays, with special attention to Richard II, the two parts of Henry IV, and Henry V. Dr. Matt Johnson, a professor of Communication who helps coach the Florida College Oratory Union, discussed the pleasures of performing Shakespeare’s language, and then demonstrated with the opening speech of Richard III. Dr. Mark Bingham, who serves as faculty advisor to the Pi Gamma Chapter and whose specialization is English Renaissance poetry, extolled the bard’s late romances — including Pericles, A Winter’s Tale, and The Tempest — as offering the richness and ripeness of Shakespeare’s mature vision. The presidents of the two hosting organizations served as moderators, introducing the speakers and fielding questions for the panel. Both students and faculty members presented readings of monologues and short scenes from Richard II, The Merchant of Venice, Hamlet, As You Like It, A Winter’s Tale, and The Tempest. One student also recited sonnet 116 (“Let me not to the marriage of true minds”).

In a Chapel assembly two days before the event, the Pi Gamma president performed Mark Antony’s well-known “Friends, Romans, countrymen” speech from Julius Caesar as a teaser and part of an announcement. Fliers advertising the event were posted around campus. Several faculty members encouraged attendance by offering their students extra credit for attending. More than 100 students and faculty attended the evening and responded enthusiastically. Since the entire student body numbers only about 500, the turnout was quite good. The officers elected for the 2016 - 2017 academic year hope to plan a program focusing on another author — perhaps Edgar Allan Poe, perhaps around Halloween.



Project Graduation

KAPPA NU

Project Graduation was conceived in 1998 at Burlington County College in New Jersey, as an opportunity for graduates to give back to the community while celebrating their new beginnings inherent in commencement ceremonies. Graduates and commencement guests were asked to bring a can of food and a children's book. The first food items collected for Project Graduation went to local food banks while the books were given to the America Reads Challenge, at that time Phi Theta Kappa's International Service Program. In 1999, Phi Theta Kappa chapters at Burlington County College and Delaware County Community College in Pennsylvania developed, coordinated, and promoted this program to Society chapters nationally. The Society assumed responsibility for the program three years later. Currently Project Graduation is among Phi Theta Kappa's civic engagement initiatives. In the program's initial year as an international initiative, 283 chapters enrolled. In just one year that number more than doubled, and donations increased by 250 percent.

At the College of Central Florida, the Kappa Nu chapter continues the tradition. We offer graduating members their stole and tassel for the cost of 20 Canned goods, 20 Children's books or a combination of the two. The food goes to places such as Brothers Keepers and Interfaith Emergency Services. The books go to domestic violence shelters and Success by Six. Interfaith and Brothers Keepers provide food, hygiene products, prescription services, and more to individuals and families in a crisis. Success by Six is part of the Early Learning Coalition and is partnered with United Way. They work to see that children under the age of six enter school prepared to be successful throughout the years that follow. This spring Kappa Nu was set up inside the registration area with empty boxes and plenty of Stoles and Tassels for the graduating members. By the end of the first graduation ceremony, PTK had collected over 375 canned goods and over 203 books. By the end of the second ceremony, there was a total of 709 cans and over 400 children's books. On average, since Project Graduation was implemented that first time, Kappa Nu has donated over 1,000 Canned goods and between 150 - 200 children's books each semester. This year, the children's books donation reached a high of 490 books, double the normal amount.



EDITOR'S NOTE



Omega Phi Chapter

Editorial Policy

Chapters submit articles between 300 and 400 words. The article must focus on one chapter activity, project, or idea. No “grocery lists” of chapter activities will be accepted. No works of fiction will be published. Articles will be edited for grammar, mechanics, and excessive length

Format for Submissions

Articles should be submitted electronically in MS Word or rtf formats. Photos should be sent as separate files. Jpeg is preferred.

Articles which do not follow these guidelines will not be published nor receive credit for submission

Deadlines

Submission Date	Publication Date
DEC 1 ST	DEC 15 TH
FEB 1 ST	FEB 15 TH
JUNE 1 ST	JUNE 15 TH
SEPT 1 ST	SEPT 15 TH

Submit To

Jason Prosper
Florida Region Phi Theta Kappa
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The Athenian is the newsletter for the official Florida region of Phi Theta Kappa. Its purpose is to facilitate the exchange of ideas and practices among the chapters in the region. It is published four times a year by the Communication Chapter