



Itineris



Newsletter of Beta Theta Omicron
Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society

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President's Corner

On November 17, BΘO will host the Fall Induction Ceremony for BΘO and Beta Zeta Nu, the Cañada College chapter of ΦΘΚ. Combined, the two chapters will induct 78 new members.

I am always impressed with ΦΘΚ conferences. Some of us went to the Regional Leadership conference on Oct 21-22 and I was amazed by the energy that I saw there. The power of getting together and believing that we can make a difference and the passion that I saw in that conference as the Nevada/California Region raises money for the children in Sri Lanka are inspiring. Did you know that for only \$271 you can educate a child for an entire year? ΦΘΚ has made me feel that I am matter and I can be part of something bigger than myself, and make a difference. As a member of ΦΘΚ you have the opportunity to use this organization at personal, local and international levels:

- On a personal level, there is the résumé perk for University admissions and for scholarships.
- Bring your passions and interests to ΦΘΚ and develop or participate in service events that benefit Skyline, Pacifica, San Bruno, or South San Francisco.
- And, you have the opportunity to run for Regional and International Office. International officers and scholarship recipients travel to international events and even to the White House.

Phi Theta Kappa is here for you. Here for you to explore and grow as a scholar and as a leader. Here for you to excel farther than you though you could.

As new members light your candle, I hope that you will think about how you will take advantage of the many opportunities the ΦΘΚ provides to you. I also hope that this organization will impact your life and help you to achieve your goals as it has helped me. I congratulate you for achieving your academic success and welcome you to Phi Theta Kappa.

-Nasim Naderseresht

Did you know?

	Skyline	National
Female students	53%	57%
Full-time students	25%	91%
Students who work	72%	41%
In-state community college tuition	\$26 per unit	\$2,272/year (average)
Asian students	27%	6%
Hispanic students	19%	10%



BΘO member, Anna Dneprov, at the International Honors Institute at the University of Delaware. Story on page 2.

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Editor for this issue: Anna Dneprov, VP of Scholarship.

International Honors Institute—2006

I became an officer with PTK at the end of the spring 2006. Before I was able to get used to that fact, I was given an amazing opportunity to be our chapter's representative at the International Honors Institute in the University of Delaware in Newark, DE. The notion of going to an event like this alone and with virtually no experience as an officer was intimidating at first. Then I realized what a wonderful opportunity it is to understand how the organization works. In addition the prospect of gaining knowledge from more experienced members whom I was about to meet seemed promising.

The 2006 International Honors Institute offered approximately 400 participants a week of intensive study of the 2006-08 Honors Study Topic, *Gold, Gods, and Glory: The Global Dynamics of Power*. Members, advisors and alumni heard presentations by experts on various aspects of the Honors Study Topic, enjoyed field trips related to the Topic, participated in experiential activities, and enjoyed time to discuss and reflect upon what they had learned in a small group setting. The organization of the event was immaculate. Accommodation, facilities and hospitality turned out to be better than anyone could have wished for. Honors Institute provided a lot of opportunities to get to know fellow Phi Theta Kappa members and enjoy scholarly fellowship.

Throughout the week, internationally and regionally recognized scholars addressed the Honors Study Topic from various interdisciplinary perspectives. Some of the speakers presented the lectures they were going to give during the satellite seminars. As the new VP of Scholarship I benefited a great deal from those "previews". Now I know about seminars more and can plan them according not only to the topic but also to the individual style of the speaker.

Each speaker's presentation was followed by a Seminar Meeting, which was an intimate small-group discussion led by an experienced facilitator. This was a very interesting experience. I met people from all over the nation and was able to make a lot of new friends.

Phi Theta Kappa sponsored a field trip to Philadelphia for all Honors Institute attendees. On the ride to Philadelphia, we were treated to a viewing of *Independence*, a dramatization of the events surrounding the writing of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States of America. The participants also visited National Constitution Center the historic Independence Mall and so much more.

The overall atmosphere of the Institute is very stimulating. I learned a lot and brought back many ideas and projects to do in our chapter. Chapter and regional officers participated in a leadership skills building activity and received important information about Society programs and

initiatives. It is only when one is at the event of that magnitude he can realize how big and powerful Phi Theta Kappa is and what brilliant possibilities it has to offer.



Anna at the University of Delaware.

Skyline students do scientific research

Several Skyline students & BΘO members presented their scientific research at the National SACNAS conference, November 26-29, 2006, in Tampa, Florida. These students conducted original scientific research during the summer. The Skyline researchers are:

- ANTIBACTERIAL ACTIVITY OF SOLANACEOUS PLANTS. Raymond Lai and Rosanne Luu.
- ANTIBACTERIAL PROPERTIES OF ZINGIBERACEAE. Madison Fandel and Jillian Vega.
- BACTERIOCINS FROM GOLDFISH. Judy Liu and Raymond Chow.
- ANTIBACTERIAL ACTIVITY OF LICHENS. Lesley Hansen and Dustin Schiavo.
- ANTIBACTERIAL PROPERTIES OF PLANTS USED IN TRADITIONAL CHINESE. Laura Yusman and Paul Cotaco.
- DETECTING PLANETARY DEBRIS DISK AROUND YOUNG STARS USING ADAPTIVE OPTICS. Nasim Naderseresht, with M. Fitzgerald and J. Graham (UC, Berkeley)

BΘO president Nasim Naderseresht, received an award for her research in Astronomy and Physics.

An Interview with Skyline Alumna Maria Segarra

Emi Matsuura, VP of Operations, interviews former Chapter Vice-president Maria Segarra. Maria has graduated from U.C., Santa Cruz with a baccalaureate in Psychology and is on her way to law school. As a Chapter officer, Maria was on the All-California Academic Team and won the Regional Essay Award. She also received the Pister Leadership Scholarship to UCSC.

Emi: Why did you participate in Beta Theta Omicron?

Maria: I participated in Beta Theta Omicron because I wanted to be more involved in activities and events on campus. When I took a closer look at the organizations on campus, BΘO seemed to be the perfect match for what I want – an intellectually stimulating environment, more opportunities to interact with like-minded peers, and a place where I can explore interests and career paths.

Emi: Do you think the experience of ΦΘK help you to get in your major?

Maria: While my experiences in ΦΘK did not directly influence what I wanted to major in, they were invaluable in strengthening my desire to choose a service-oriented career. The numerous service events that I led and facilitated exposed me to the needs of different communities and intensified my desire to effect positive change in other people's lives and to look after the welfare of the poorest and weakest members of society.

Emi: What did you gain through tour experience as an officer of Beta Theta Omicron Chapter? and what is most valuable?

Maria: As an officer of the Beta Theta Omicron Chapter, I was fortunate to attend a number of ΦΘK events such as conventions, leadership conferences, and honors institutes, both at the regional and international level. Through these tours, I learned the importance of collaboration in achieving goals. I also realized that academic excellence and having fun in college need not be two distinct aspirations – that students can enjoy college life while striving to excel in classes. However, the most valuable insight I gained is knowing that differences in perspective does not necessarily imply division and that fostering a safe and respectful environment facilitates an

honest and open discussion between individuals and groups.

Emi: Did membership in ΦΘK make any difference when you applied for jobs?

Maria: I do not know whether my affiliation with ΦΘK made any difference when I applied for jobs. However, the experiences I gained and the lessons learned made me more appealing as a potential employee. As a ΦΘK member, I participated in a number of events including conducting hands-on biology workshops for middle school students. These experiences helped developed job-related skills and improved my self confidence. ΦΘK lectures and events widened my perspective as I became more exposed to the complexities of social issues like health policy. Finally, as a ΦΘK officer and a full-time student who also worked part-time, my demanding schedule prompted me to be more efficient in managing my time and carrying out tasks.

Emi: What has Beta Theta Omicron meant to you?

Maria: To me, Beta Theta Omicron is where I realized my potential, where my abilities have been sharpened, my self-confidence boosted, my patience tested, and my commitment to service strengthened. It means camaraderie, fond memories, and advisors whose lives serve as shining examples of dedicated service. Needless to say, Beta Theta Omicron made a positive difference in my life.



Government Jobs

In the federal government, entry-level jobs in accounting, medical and technical fields start at the GS-5 level. You need four years of undergraduate study (120 semester or 180 quarter hours) to qualify for a GS-5 level position. You do not have to have completed a Bachelor's degree. However to be creditable, the courses completed must have been progressively more difficult and in a curriculum leading to a Bachelor's degree. Members of Phi Theta Kappa who complete bachelor's degrees and qualify for Federal GS-5 entry positions are automatically eligible to receive GS-7 status.

Participate in the Upcoming Events

Money Talks: Lobbyists and the Power of Money in Washington

Professor Masao Suzuki

Nov. 15. 2-4 p.m. Room 1105

The Iraq War and Its Consequences in the Middle East

Professor Rosemary Bell

Nov. 16. 2-4 p.m. Room 1105

Induction for New Members

Nov. 17, 7-9 p.m. Room 2306

Lessons Learned from My Grandfather

Arun Gandhi

TBS

Watch for upcoming events at <http://skylinecollege.edu/boo>

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Beta Theta Omicron
Skyline College
3300 College Drive
San Bruno CA, 94066