



Itineris



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

January 2007



Issue 6, Volume 7

Opportunities

Call for Officers Will you be at Skyline in the Spring 2007 and/or Fall 2007? It's time to think about building your resume and honing your leadership skills. Read what Sharon says about leadership opportunities (page 3). Are you interested in an appointment to Environmental Specialist? See Chris Case to learn more about being an officer.

Will you be the next Regional Scholar The Chapter will nominate members for the Nevada/California Outstanding Regional Scholar award soon. Skyline students have won this scholarship. In 2006 it was awarded to our Chapter president Lacey Slattery. See Chris Case *immediately* if you have a GPA >3.9, no Ws, and will be transferring at the end of Spring 2007.

Calling all writers The Nevada/California Regional Literary awards entries will be due soon. If you have a story or poem you would like to enter, see Chris Case *immediately*. Skyline students have won this award. The categories are

- A work of fiction written in prose
- A work of non-fiction written in prose
- A poem

Calling all artists The Nevada/California Regional Art awards entries will be due soon. If you have a piece of art you would like to enter, see Chris Case *immediately*. Skyline students have won this award. The categories are

- An original painting or sculpture in any medium
- A musical composition
- A still photograph (videos are not accepted)

Expanding Your Horizons Help implement this award-winning conference for 6th through 12 grade girls on March 17. It feels good to provide encouragement for the next generation—and looks great on your resume. To help see: AJ Bates (Chemistry), Tiffany Reardon (MESA), or Chris Case (Biology).

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Global Citizenship

Skyline is committed to educate and engage students for a lifetime of active citizenship. One of Skyline's Student Learning Outcomes focuses on Global Citizenship. Thomas Ehrlich said a civically responsible individual is someone who "recognizes himself or herself as a member of a larger social fabric, and therefore considers social problems to be at least partly his or her own." The plight of people in underdeveloped countries, religious persecution, and the war in Iraq are some of the issues that affect us all as a global society.

The annual Honors Study topic is developed by the Phi Theta Kappa honor society and the National Collegiate Honors Council (represented at Skyline by the Honors Transfer Program). The 2006-08 Honors Study topic is "Gold, Gods, & Glory: The Global Dynamics of Power." The three Gs are taken from 15th century historical references but they are just as relevant to understanding the dynamics of power today.

Three seminars will be held on topics of global significance. Engage your classes in discussions about these issues and encourage them to attend the seminars. The seminars will be **7:00-8:00 p.m. in Bldg 6 Room 6202:**

February 8: What it is like to be a Muslim today.

Ameena Jandali

Co-founder and Secretary of the Board of Directors of Islamic Networks Group

February 15: The world waits while Darfur dies

San Francisco Bay Area Darfur Coalition

February 22: Bridge 2 Peace: The children of Sri Lanka

Amali Tower, Co-founder, Bridge 2 Peace

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Editor for this issue: Anastasia Kuzina

Paper or plastic?

How many times a week do you hear the words paper or plastic when shopping at a nearby grocery store? Most likely every time you go shopping. I'm pretty sure whatever you choose to bring your groceries home in, the bag, whether plastic or paper, ends up in the trash. "Californians currently use and throw away 19 billion plastic grocery bags a year. That is approximately 552 bags per person. This creates 147,000 tons of waste." (cawrecycles.org). Why not try to make the world a better place by bringing our own reusable bags to the grocery store? Not only are you saving plastic and paper but you are also being rewarded by some grocery stores, e.g., Trader Joes and Whole Foods by getting a \$0.05 reduction on your purchase if you bring in cloth bags, or any sort of bag to for the current transactions.

Many environmental organizations are being created in order to inform others about recycling. Recycling should be a priority in our lives to make our living environment uncontaminated and enhanced.

Plastic on the streets

The litter that escapes city cleaning crews is usually washed into storm drains and carried in both natural and manmade water channels to the ocean. According to the United Nations Environment Program, 80% of marine debris originates from land based sources and activities. Litter that accumulates on sidewalks only attracts more litter and debris. Plastic that is found in lakes, oceans, and other bodies of water hurt aquatic animals. Animals, just like humans can't survive in a polluted environment. In order to stop the killing our sea life, let's recycle. Plastic bottle recycling fell from 53% in 1994 to 19% in 2003. Let's turn the tide on the sea of plastic and recycle.

Biodegradable plastic

Biochemical researchers and engineers have long been seeking to develop biodegradable plastics that are made from plants or by bacterial metabolism.

The term biodegradable means that a substance is able to be broken down into simpler substances by the activities of living organisms, and therefore is unlikely to persist in the environment. To get any benefit from biodegradable plastics we (1) have to use them and (2) modify the way we throw away our garbage. There is a popular misconception that biodegradable materials break down in landfill sites, they *don't*. Rubbish deposited in landfill is compressed and sealed under tons of soil. This minimizes oxygen and moisture, which are essential requirements for microbial decomposition. For biodegradable plastics to effectively decompose they need to be treated like compost.

General recycling tips

- Support grocery bag recycling
- Ask your local city council to enact waste issues
- Refuse a plastic bag at your local grocery store
- Use a reusable shopping bag
- Most importantly recycle!
- Use reusable products
- Buy computer paper with recycled content
- Carpool, take public transportation or bike
- Sort out bottles, and other containers and put them in the recycling bin, rather than the trash
- Educate your fellow peers about recycling
- Do not litter on Skyline's campus



Keep America Beautiful



BOO members teach "Bottle Biology" at Sunset Ridge Elementary School using recycled bottles to make terrariums and water filters.

Save oil: recycle plastic:

20 billion water bottles were sold in 2005
But fewer than 20% were recycled—
Let's do better than that at Skyline.



An Interview with Skyline Alumna Sharon Prasad

Emi Matsuura, VP of Operations, interviews former Chapter Vice-president Sharon Prasad. Sharon has graduated from USF with a baccalaureate in Biochemistry and is currently a graduate student at S.F. State University. As a Chapter officer, Sharon won the ΦΘΚ International Freeman Science Award.

Emi: Why did you participate in Beta Theta Omicron?

Sharon: I wanted to join an organization that I could benefit from, and wanted to be a part of a well known organization that really incorporated the community and not only the school.

Emi: Do you think the experience of Phi Theta Kappa helped you in your major or in transferring?

Sharon: Definitely. It taught me to be a well rounded person. To be able to handle my duties as an officer and class work is a real juggle. I learned to balance my schedule. Also, I took what I received as an officer and applied to problems or activities that I was involved in at University of San Francisco. The amount of volunteer work that I accomplished as a ΦΘΚ member really helped me get into the program at USF.

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

Sharon: As an officer of Beta Theta Omicron, I learned to become involved in my community. ΒΘΟ gave me a chance

to participate and create events that others can benefit from and I appreciate that. What I gained at being an active officer is compassion for others, leadership, and to be confident in what I do. For the second part of the question, I have to say that there is no valuable experience. Every meeting, event, and seminars have been valuable to me.

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

Sharon: I believe it may have made a difference. The name itself is a big deal, but what I think might have made my resume more unique is the amount of volunteer and team work that is involved. Because I was an active officer for two years and an active member for one, I had a long list of activities that I created and participated in, and I think that made me more unique than the average applicant.

Emi: What has Beta Theta Omicron meant to you?

Sharon: ΒΘΟ mean a lot to me. Because of ΒΘΟ, I am who I am today. Majority of my memories at Skyline College are based on meetings, events, and conferences all of which I met people that I call now my good old friends. ΒΘΟ was the first organization that I was really involved in, and it gave me the true college experience.



Opportunities Continued from p. 1

Scholarships Currently Phi Theta Kappa has over 550 institutions in 49 states, the District of Columbia and Canada, offering approximately \$35 million exclusive Phi Theta Kappa scholarships, and the number increases regularly. Complete information is included in the e-Scholarship Directory, available through The Phi Theta Kappa Network, <http://getconnected.ptk.org>.

Read about more scholarship opportunities at <http://skylinecollege.edu/boo>.

Bridge2Peace and Phi Theta Kappa hope to end the cycle of violence and poverty that has plagued Sri Lanka, and to help its children become informed, resourceful, self-reliant leaders able to shape a peaceful world for themselves, and for those around them. 12 slots are reserved for students that wish to immerse themselves in the culture of Sri Lanka. For 6 weeks students will teach, tour, and learn about Sri Lanka. This is a once in lifetime, life-changing experience. More information: <http://skylinecollege.edu/boo>.

America Counts Become an Elementary School Tutor. Starting Pay \$11.50. Join Skyline College Financial Aid in coordination with the Learning Center and Local Elementary Schools to continue to make a difference.

For more information: <http://smccd.edu/accounts/skyac/>

Pacifica School Volunteers needs volunteers to help students with reading, math, and other school work. There is also a need for volunteers with skills in music, art, drama, and physical education. Call 650-355-9432.

Gateway high school needs math and biology/science tutors. The program operates Mon-Thurs from 3:30-5 pm. This is a great school, and it's a lot of fun to work here. Contact Joanne Wells: 415-749-3600 X10 or 415-760-9367 or email her at jwells@gatewayhigh.org. Gateway charter high school: 1430 Scott St. at Geary in San Francisco.



**Gold, Gods, & Glory: the global dynamics of power
Colloquium**

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

BOO

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