



Itineris



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

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President's Corner

I am pleased to announce that our progress to date has been significant. We have achieved all of our goals we set out to accomplish. Our Relay for Life team was proven as an outstanding success. Team BOO exceeded expectations on both member participation and funds raised. Recognizing the importance of Relay for Life, many of our members and officers walked several miles around the track at Burlingame High School and joined in the festivities in the spirit of finding a cure for cancer.

We continue to make remarkable growth in our Feed the Homeless program. We had a breakout month in October by providing approximately 850 meals on Sunday the 14th, a noteworthy increase due to the efforts of our officers and volunteers. We are now distributing small amounts of refurbished shoes and clothing to the homeless. In addition to our current numbers, we have made an agreement with a shelter in San Francisco to deliver 100 additional meals every other Sunday. We hope to expand our reach in the coming months in order to help more people in need.

The Leadership Conference we attended in Sacramento was very inspirational and informative. The conferences we attend are designed to provide new ideas and to connect with other $\Phi\Theta\K$ officers. Special guest speakers included the former mayor of Sacramento, Anne Rudin 1983-1992, City Council member Rob Fong, and Natasha Harris from Better World Books. In attendance were several key presenters from $\Phi\Theta\K$, all of which communicated the importance of leadership and making a positive contribution to our communities. These conferences always tend to incorporate entertainment as well as give us a roadmap to success within $\Phi\Theta\K$.

As we shift our attention to November, we will host our fall induction on November 16th. This event will provide us an opportunity to recognize our new members and officers. We will also have a service project, Bottle Biology in which our members will help 3rd grade children create crafts for their loved ones and recycle plastic bottles. Bottle Biology has been a popular activity that has brought praise among teach-

ers, students and parents.

Lastly, I am pleased to announce a new service project that will provide a strong sense of community of giving back in the years to come. We have created a partnership to help collect and distribute toys for disadvantaged children this holiday season. I encourage you to join us and donate a toy this holiday for an important cause.

I want to thank all our officers, members and advisers for making this possible. Working towards a common goal of giving back to our community is a wonderful experience and sends a positive message to all. I encourage all eligible students to become a member of $\Phi\Theta\K$. Our hallmarks and dedication to community service continues to inspire and influence our members. Discover $\Phi\Theta\K$ online on our chapter website and learn more about us or by contacting me directly.

Best wishes to all,
Richard Chiang President 2007-2008

$\Phi\Theta\K$ is unlike any other organization on campus....
Hear from a Skyline alumna who transferred to Haas School of Business, page 2

In This Issue

In search of the sloth	page 2
An interview with a Skyline alumna	page 2
Travel and Be The Change	page 3
Events	page 4

Editor for this issue: Richard Chiang

An interview with a Skyline Alumnus: Benefits of Being an Officer

Our alumni have transferred to many prestigious universities over the years. Many top universities show great interest in transfer students who have background experience in leadership activities and responsibilities. Phi Theta Kappa can help by building your resume towards those goals. The wealth of knowledge and experience you earn by being an officer will assist you in your future plans as well.

Richard Chiang, Chapter President, former Beta

Theta Omicron officer **Brian Yee**. Brian recently transferred from Skyline College to the University of California Berkeley, Haas School of Business.

Richard: Why did you participate in Beta Theta Omicron?

Brian: I really wanted to be involved with an organization that provided a clear message about community and leadership activities. Beta Theta Omicron stood out to me as the best organization that would enable me to advance in my extracurricular development. It also helped me a great deal to know the people participating in Beta Theta Omicron were very dedicated.

Richard: Do you think the experience of **ΦΘΚ** helped you transferring?

Brian: I had a good idea what my major was beforehand, but **ΦΘΚ** did offer me a venue to explore other options. There are plenty of people around offering excellent advice about majors.

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

Brian: I haven't applied to any jobs just yet, but I am sure that the types of leadership qualities that you acquire from being an officer of **BΘO** are the kind of skills that any employer would value.

Richard: What did you gain through your experience as an officer of Beta Theta Omicron Chapter?

Brian: It made me feel good to know that we were actually helping people. Whether it was cleaning up national landmarks or helping kids make projects for mother's day, **ΦΘΚ** was there. I understand **ΦΘΚ** is now helping feed 600 plus homeless families in San Francisco every other Sunday morning, I find that outstanding and it definitely says a lot about leadership and community service. **ΦΘΚ** is unlike any other

organization on campus. **ΦΘΚ** actually works towards making a difference.

Richard: What has Beta Theta Omicron meant to you?

Brian: It means you care about your community and developing as a person. You learn about responsibility and leadership, two of the more acclaimed skills that top universities are looking for in a student. For anyone interested in furthering your academic career and future, I highly recommend joining **ΦΘΚ** as an officer.

“**ΦΘΚ** actually works towards making a difference.”



A BΘO member's summer internship in Panama... IN SEARCH OF THE SLOTH...

I don't think I really knew what I was getting myself into. Sure, I knew I was going to be traveling to an underdeveloped country and doing research under some difficult conditions, but I had no idea what I was really going to face. We had no electricity, no internet, no phone, no hot water. We ate rice and beans three times a day for thirty days. I shared a bunk bed in a room with eleven other girls with no fans and only mosquito nets to protect us from the night critters. I got eaten alive.

The class was called Primate Ecology and it took place in a tiny field station on a small island called Bocas del Toro, Panama. The session was designed to teach students various techniques for field and animal research and to show us how to use an assortment of different types of equipment. We were asked to conduct several types of research collection in the five different forest areas that were available to us, then to submit data collection reports which included responses to some difficult field lab questions. We took an essay exam, wrote a 15-page scientific paper, and presented a ten-minute power point presentation. The paper and oral presentation were based on our own independent research that required 60 hours in the field. Mine was on the auditory capabilities of the sloth. Never in my life did I ever think I would spend so much time alone with a sloth. I began to recognize them and give them names like "Hammy" and "Brian Boitano," and if I saw them today I could pick them out of a line-up. We were close.

The schedule worked something like this: every day we would wake up at four in the morning during the tropical rainstorms to march down a dirt road for 45 minutes to reach the outskirts of the jungle. We had to be there early to find the Howler monkeys, and this is when their day began. Once you hear their cries, it's a race to find them before they cease their howling. It usually takes about an hour to walk into the forest and pinpoint and record their exact location. Once there, the

fun really begins. You literally look straight up for the next six hours while timing and marking every movement they make. At the end of research collecting for the day, there is still that 45 minute walk out of the forest and then the 45 minute walk back to the station. When you finally get back, you are covered in sweat and dirt and are definitely looking forward to a shower. However, the station has run out of water so your choices become fewer: get into your swimsuit and jump into the shallow waters that are somewhat hazardous as they are full of spiny sea urchins, or go with the stink.

It sounds harsh, and maybe even horrible, but it was one of the best and most challenging experiences of my life. I learned more during my trip to Panama than I have in any institution. Not just information either, I'm talking about learning about myself, other people, another culture, other ways of thinking, ways of coping with less than perfect circumstances and situations, learning through perseverance, overcoming self-doubt and physical limitations, and last but certainly not least, learning to love the sloth.

During my stay I was able to have some unlikely experiences with some of the animals that were not in the jungle. Suzy was a dog that hung around the station who was in pretty bad shape when I arrived—I was able to find some medicine for her on the mainland and slowly nurse her back to health with food and care. I performed my very first euthanasia on an abandoned young opossum that had most likely fallen out of its mother's nest and had no chance of being reunited. Some locals brought the newborn down to our station hoping that we as biologists would know what to do. We didn't - this was definitely not our area of expertise. After hours of deliberation and much discussion, we decided as a group that the best thing for this animal would be to put it down painlessly. We found a humane way and I was put in charge. This was not an easy thing to do, but I faced my apprehensions and fears and dealt with the emotions that came with it. This made me feel capable of handling a situation that required action.

I walked away from this experience feeling like I could conquer the world—like anything is possible for me. I brought back with me the confidence I needed - just to know that I can get into veterinary school and later to handle the situations I will come across as a doctor of animals. I made new friends from around the country and around the world—it's truly amazing how close you will become to people when you share experiences like this one. These are friends I continue to keep in touch with, friends I know I will call first when I finally do graduate from veterinary school, friends who are counting on me to take care of their animals.

Denise Owen, VP-Service



Travel and Be The Change

“We must be the change we wish to see in the world.” The participants in these ground-breaking programs come from different backgrounds, but hold common values, beliefs and goals. They all want to affect change in our world by helping others.



Student Conservation Association (<http://www.thesca.org/>) offers 3-to-12 month, expense-paid internship opportunities in all 50 states, in more than 50 professional fields with the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Geological Survey, and state and local agencies, among others.

Most SCA interns work one-on-one alongside conservation professionals, while a few others work in small groups, under SCA supervision, doing wilderness restoration, exotic plant management, fire fuels mitigation, and environmental education.

The benefits are tangible -- you will perform hands-on conservation work at natural or cultural resource sites. The benefits are also personal – you can earn academic credit, defer student loans and make contacts that may lead you to a fulfilling career.

Unite For Sight (www.uniteforsight.org) is a nonprofit organization that empowers communities worldwide to improve eye health and eliminate preventable blindness.

The goal of Unite For Sight and its partner eye clinics and communities is to create eye disease-free communities. Unite For Sight's volunteers (local and visiting) work with partner eye clinics to provide eye care in communities without previous access. Visiting volunteers from North America range from undergraduate and medical students, educators, nurses, and public health professionals to optometrists and ophthalmologists.

Apply Now For Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer Opportunities! Programs fill quickly. The application as well as complete details about Unite For Sight's international opportunities are available at www.uniteforsight.org/intl_volunteer/

Sri Lanka: Bridge2Peace An opportunity for Phi Theta Kappa from Nevada/California and the children of Sri Lanka. Teaming up with the non-profit, Non-Governmental Agency (NGO) Bridge2Peace, the Nevada-California Region of Phi Theta Kappa strives to empower the children of Lunugamvehera, Sri Lanka, and their families by teaching English as a second language and Environmental Conservation in Sri Lanka beginning in Summer 2008. For 6 weeks students will teach, tour, and learn about Sri Lanka. This is a once in lifetime, life-changing experience. See Chris Case for more information.



Get involved!

Feed the homeless on Sunday
(see skylinecollege.edu/boo)

November 16, 2007
Induction Ceremony for new members
Everyone is welcome
7 p.m. Room 2306

Toys for Tots

Between now and Dec 14, we will collect Toys for Tots. These toys will be distributed by local nonprofit agencies to children who might otherwise be overlooked during the holiday season. This is Toys for Tots 60th year collecting toys for disadvantaged children.
<toysfortots2007.com/google07/>

Place new, unwrapped toys in one of the bins in the Bookstore or in Admissions (Bldg 2).

Walking for life

On October 6-7, BΘO joined members walked the 24-hour Relay for Life in Burlingame to raise money for the American Cancer Society. Our 18-member exceeded their fund-raising goal and raised \$2501 to fight cancer.



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

BΘO

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