Check Out These Highlights From
Spring & Summer 2019

THE
CAROLINA
CRIER

Nothing Could Be Finer,
Than Knowing What’s Going On
In The Carolinas Region!
On Thursday, April 18, 2019, over 300 people witnessed Forsyth Tech’s Alpha Mu Rho chapter of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society induct 76 student scholars during their spring induction ceremony. Making it the largest class of inductees to date. These students have obtained at least 12 curriculum hours and a 3.5 or above GPA.

A generous donation by the Foundation at Forsyth Tech helped to provide partial membership scholarships to 36 inductees and supplement the cost of the ceremony.

The students inducted on Thursday evening include:

Stanfield, Madelynn Champion, Madison Hinson, Madison Hooker, Maria Meza de la Cruz, Matthew Bennett, Mei Lan Li, Melissa Carson, Mia Liberti, Michael J Parks, Michael McKenzie, Monique Brooks, Murali Priya Zaldivar, Nesley Lastimosa, Obed Cahua, Ono Abhulimen, Patrick Widener, Rachel O’Brien, Rebecca Grattan, Rebecca McKee, Rebecca Slate Benton, Rebekah Vaughn, Richard David Warren, Sami Atassi, Sara Haynes, Spencer Edwards, Susan Lynn Creecy Stinson, Tamelia Sue Orellana, Tatiana Flores, Taylor Simmons-Parsons, Tessa Oliver, Whitney Hackworth

Inductees also nominated a faculty or staff member who has had a meaningful impact on their academic and personal lives. The 36 “Good As Gold” nominees include:

Alan Teitleman, Allison Brinkley, Aziz Al-Shayef, Beverely Lewis, Blanche Hailey, Bridgette Martin, Carol Hayes, Carrie Blaskowski, Cherise Velez, Demetria Ledbetter, Elizabeth Martin, Gloria Maldonado, Gustavo Solis, Hap Burns, James Wright, John Carstens, John Kelly, Julio Pando, Karen Weavil, Katie Waugh, Kelly Davenport, Kismet Loftin-Bell, Lauren Rathbone, Lisa Baker, Lisa Whitaker, Maryanna Richardson, Nedra Dozier, Phillip Hopkins, Sam Mabe, Sarah Hawks, Stephanie Yoder, Tandeka Boko, Thomas Brown, Toni Haavisto, Vincent Holbrook, William Rice
On the weekend of March 1-3, the Carolinas Regional Convention was held in Columbia, SC. The conference included several highlights. Saturday, March 2, was international PTK Serves Day. In recognition of the day, Cape Fear Community College sponsored a service project workshop. One of Alpha Omega Nu’s alumni, Melanie Goff Bradley, participated in this opportunity, as did many others from other chapters. During this session, toys were made for dogs in animal shelters out of tennis balls and thick cloth braids, and supportive letters were written for the military. The names of all the schools (or chapters) who participated were placed in a drawing, to see who would take the items home for local delivery. Our chapter, Alpha Omega Nu, was lucky enough to be drawn to deliver the dog toys. Consequently, we visited the Edgecombe County Animal Shelter on Monday, March 18. We donated over 30 homemade dog toys. Animal Services Supervisor Eugene Taylor and Volunteer Kathy Williams (as well as their puppies) were very pleased with our contributions! We appreciate Cape Fear Community College for showing the initiative to spearhead this event at the conference and for allowing us to collaborate with them!
If you would like to see more about the animal shelter, please visit the Facebook site, *Friends of Edgecombe County Animals.*

*Cape Fear Community College, Leading The Workshop*

*Edgecombe County Animal Shelter*
From Left To Right: Hattie Bullock, Michael Parker, Jr., Animal Services Supervisor Eugene Taylor, Melanie Goff Bradley, and Animal Volunteer Kathy Williams
Leading into graduation, the Wilson Community College Alpha Nu Tau Chapter of PTK challenges all graduating PTK members to donate books on graduation night. This year students brought gently used and new books to donate to one of Wilson’s Youth Groups called “The Spot”…Sharing Positive Outcomes Together. Director of Operations, Tracy Pittman, received the book donation from our current 2019 officers, Betty Johnson, and Amanda Hollis. She was so grateful for the opportunity to share these valuable treasures with the students in their afterschool and soon to be summer programs. The Spot Wilson Youth United, Inc. is a project/activity-based learning center. Over 180 kids take part daily in homework support, tutoring, activities that focus on math, science, and reading, while also enjoying sports like wrestling, soccer, baseball, basketball, football, golf, and cross country. Several staff members and volunteers work daily to ensure a safe learning environment for the youth of Wilson. The 95 books collected and donated to this group was one of WCC PTK’s small way of giving back to the community and serving others.
What a great time we had meeting & greeting folks at our table! Our 2018-2019 President, Kat Truesdale, made these incredible cookies and the team did a fabulous job answering questions & encouraging folks to check us out! We also surprised the participants with a FLASH MOB to the tune of “Happy” 😊 #FunTimes
Spring Induction & New Officers

(L-R) Ilan Molnar (VP of Fellowship), Kevin Waters (VP of Scholarship), Victoria Lundgren (VP of Service), Meghan Baskerville (President), Marie Tucker (VP of Public Relations), Beverly Smith (VP of Records), and Candice Hill (VP of Leadership).

Graduation at Coastal Carolina Community College

Saturday May 18th was a **HOT** one,

but thousands turned out to celebrate this incredibly momentous occasion!
Past officers and new were participants of this year’s festivities. PTK officers served as Graduation Marshals and sponsored the school’s picture booth (right) with Meghan Baskerville, our new President).

Kat, Kyle (left), Brandy and Brittany are among our

2019 grads moving on to their respective universities!

This summer we are IN the office and working on our HIA project, hosting an Ice Cream Social and preparing for the fall festivities! Stay tuned for more exciting Alpha Tau Rho news…
Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute’s Alpha Lambda Pi chapter of Phi Theta Kappa has been very busy this semester. We have done some incredible things with many more opportunities in the works.

We participated in the CCC&TI Spring Fling, Around the World, as the country Italy. We set up our table and enjoyed the fellowship of other college students on campus. We created a Pizza Pie game, where people could earn tickets to win a handmade basket with fun Italian trinkets. Everyone enjoyed the time together and sales from our pizza game afforded money to assist with fees for three new members.

Not only has our chapter gotten the opportunity to help with the Spring Fling, but we also had the opportunity to host a Relay for Life Luminaria Event on campus. The event was called the, “Light Up the Library for Relay for Life.” Students, faculty members, and staff personalized luminaria bags in honor or in memory of loved ones touched by cancer.
A total 48 bags were created. These bags lit portions of the paths at Relay for Life in two different counties as a symbol of why we seek a cure. Through this event, CCC&TI collected $323 to donate to the American Cancer Society.

We, then, congratulated the academic achievements of new members at the Spring Inductees Celebration. College President Dr. Poarch congratulated all the members and presented additional awards to Makaiah Lynn, Sierra Lynn and Cheyenne McMahan for their service.

This celebration would not have been complete without the snacks and fellowship in closing. The Alpha Lambda Pi chapter is making great strides in service, but we are remembering to have a little fun in the process.

To end this semester, we went to a local park and enjoyed time of sharing stories, food, and fun. We celebrated the recent graduates, summer inductees, and the beginning of a new and exciting year for our chapter. We cannot wait to see what this new year will bring. We have plans to incorporate the surrounding communities, as well as strengthen the bonds between our campuses.
The first event I attended as an active member of Phi Theta Kappa was Honors Institute in San Diego, California. Not only did I learn more about how to develop a proper Honors in Action topic,
but I met an array of people from all over the country! My seminar group was led by Barbara Ebert, an amazing woman who inspired our entire group to have faith in our research abilities. She led us through the first few steps in developing a thorough research question, as well as how to relate that to the world around us. My favorite part of Honors Institute was waking up every morning with the knowledge that I was going to meet and connect with so many inspiring individuals. I would love to be able to attend again next year.”

- Calli Ruffin, Vice President of Leadership

“Phi Theta Kappa held its annual Honors Institute for members across the country on June 10th to June 14th, 2019. This year, students got to enjoy general sessions, seminars, and the hunt for knowledge at the beautiful campus of San Diego State University. Throughout the week, all speakers brought Phi Theta Kappa members closer by challenging our view on the world and asking us to think critically about innovative ways of tackling old problems. For example, in the first general session, we heard Crystal Chissell discuss Project Drawdown, which is committed to reversing global warming. My favorite speaker was Sue Reynolds, her battle with obesity, her positive mindset, and now she is a World Triathlon and represented the USA in the 2018 World Triathlon Grand Final Gold Coast, all at 65 years old. Her statement, “I love witnessing how everyone encourages, helps and supports one another. I love how we all celebrate each other’s dreams and accomplishments”, resonated with me and reminded me of what PTK represents.

And of course, it goes without saying that our Reader’s Theater performance directed by Steve Schroeder, will forever be etched in my memory as it will be the last time, we ever see his jovial smile, boisterous laugh, and informative production. PTK indeed lost a fantastic soul. May he forever rest in peace!

One of the most refreshing aspects of the Honors Institute was that the seminar groups were incredibly diverse. We were challenged to go to “Old Town San Diego” and come back with information about how it related to our Honors Topic, “Transformations: Acknowledging, Assessing, and Achieving Change.” Phi Theta Kappa tried to mix up regions, chapters, and friend groups, forcing everyone to step out of their comfort zone and immerse themselves in discussions with strangers. I belonged to a very engaging group, and we all had no problem sharing information, Seminar Group #11, and our Faculty Scholar, Vicky Knickerbocker.

Honors Institute was a place to grow, surrounded by old and new friends with a common goal of developing ourselves to become better and more knowledgeable leaders to, in turn, become examples throughout the country and at our campuses. Of course, there was a bit of conspiring with PRO, Stephanie Hable and me, RO, Paulette LaValley. Watch out Carolinas! I will not only cherish the moments there but more importantly will be able to look back at the amazing people I had the chance of meeting and the skills I was able to gain. Honors Institute is a trip like none other you’ll experience as part of Phi Theta Kappa. It’s intimate enough to challenge you personally in ways you never imagined, yet broad enough to expand your network of close friends.”

- Paulette LaValley, Sergeant At Arms
Alpha Nu Sigma’s Summer Fundraiser

Alpha Nu Sigma at Horry-Georgetown Technical College, Conway, SC has completed our annual yard sale! On Thursday at our Chapter meeting, we designed our signs! Creativity abounds! Ready for Saturday, June 21, 2019, we were up at the crack of dawn, 5:30 am setting up, ready to beat the heat. Our members and advisors were all set up and ready to go when the skies broke open with a torrential downpour. We covered everything with tarps and hid in our cars until the sun started shining about 9:30. At that point, we sent members out to the roadside and started posting all over social media.

We were a little anxious at first as we were afraid, we’d missed all those early risers for yard sales! But everyone knows PTK doesn’t give up or give in! Then the folks started rolling in! SUCCESS! With grit and determination, we had our second highest yard sale ever! The fellowship and teamwork we developed that day will never be forgotten. We laughed hardily as we all got soaked, brainstormed some other ideas for future fundraising, haggled with customers like nobody’s business, and had a fantastic day! A huge thanks to all those who donated and all that came out to support us!

What kind of fundraising is your team working on?
Messages From The Dark Side...

Alpha Omega

Carolinas Region Alumni Association

Catalyst 2019 – Alumni Perspectives

“The International Orlando PTK Catalyst was my third one and the first as alumni, which only increased my excitement towards attendance. Fueled with anticipation, the lounge for alumni to meet and greet others from across Phi Theta Kappa’s diaspora was a welcome relief.

The alumni forums were especially helpful in gaining a deeper understanding of the alumni function and goals at headquarters. We were also introduced to the Alumni Advisory Board members, gained access to the PTK Alumni Facebook group, and learned of the requirements for the Alumni regional five-star plan. While there is room for improvement, I felt this was a productive gathering of alumni which can only continue towards greatness.”

– Stella Cobbs, Alpha Omega Financial Officer 2018 - 2020

“I was so excited to be attending an international event again. It had been 6 years since I attended the Annual Convention in San Jose, CA. I thought nothing would have been able to top that experience. I was wrong! Catalyst was so much more than I could have expected or imagined. The speakers were amazing, but nothing could beat the energy! It felt good to be a part of that again. I loved seeing the success stories for all of our chapters and our region. Nothing can be finer than the Carolinas!

This was my first time attending as an alumni. I was honored to be a part of an Alumni Roundtable and sit in on other sessions. It was so interesting to hear from other alumni chapters across the organization and share what Alpha Omega does throughout the year. It was an amazing opportunity to network with other alums and people from headquarters too. It is definitely an exciting time to be an alumni in Phi Theta Kappa. Never forget that #WeAreStillPTK!!”

- Kristina Schurmann, Alpha Omega President, 2018 - 2020
“Being that it was my first Catalyst experience, I didn’t really know what to expect. I had heard so many great stories about past years, but nothing can really prepare you for the amount of love, joy, and excitement you feel when attending. While I’m biased towards our great region and was ridiculously proud of all that we as chapters and individuals accomplished, it was also amazing to cheer on other chapters and get excited over what Phi Theta Kappa is doing as a whole.

A few of my top moments were seeing the Bermuda flag waving alongside our NC and SC flags, helping to facilitate the Extemporaneous Speech Competition, getting to know alumni from around the country, and watching my Carolinas WIN THE HUMAN FOOSBALL TOURNAMENT despite the “bets” placed against us! All in all, Catalyst 2019 was an epic experience and I can’t wait to see everyone in Grapevine, TX!”

- Shenan Lee Higgins, Alpha Omega Communications Officer, 2018 - 2020