Our chapter was asked by the Director of Early Childhood Education at Catawba County Schools to assist the program during their week long literacy event. I spent the week working with Sweetwater Early Childhood Center in Hickory. There were six stations set up with different themes and activities. The station that I had the privilege to work was the learning station. We had play dough with letters and shapes to use as well as the book *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* and *I Spy* bottles, which contained a letter on top of a bottle and corresponding items within the bottle for the children to find. The other stations included activities like interactive reading with “Pete the Cat”, interactive rhyming, puppet plays, and writing letters, using stamps, and making their own alphabet book that contained letters of the alphabet with corresponding pictures. The young children were able to visit all the stations, create take-homes, and even received a bag with two free books. It was a great experience for the children, but it was especially rewarding to those of us that were involved. Seven members from our chapter volunteered throughout the week. I am very glad that I was given the opportunity to do this thanks to being a member of Phi Theta Kappa.

**Phi Theta Kappa Mission**

*The purpose of Phi Theta Kappa shall be to recognize and encourage scholarship among two-year college students. To achieve this purpose, Phi Theta Kappa shall provide opportunity for the development of leadership and service, for an intellectual climate for exchange of ideas and ideals, for lively fellowship for scholars, and for stimulation of interest in continuing academic excellence.*

Phi Theta Kappa's mission is two-fold: 1) recognize and encourage the academic achievement of two-year college students and (2) provide opportunities for individual growth and development through participation in honors, leadership, service and fellowship programming.
Early in the Spring 2013 semester, the members of the Upsilon Chi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Wayne Community College in Goldsboro, NC decided that they wanted to do something “nice” for the patients at the Kitty Askins Hospice Center that is located very near the college campus. With Valentine’s Day being the perfect time to show love and appreciation, members collected donations for Goody Baskets that would be distributed to the hospice patients.

Over twenty baskets filled with candy, crossword puzzle books, and personal hygiene items were created and delivered to Kitty Askins Hospice Center so that staff could present them to patients and their family members.

So many delectable donations were collected that when the baskets were full, there was plenty left over to help stock the pantry at the hospice center for additional snacking. While the chapter’s members were not able to meet with the recipients of the Goody Baskets, they were excited to receive notes of gratitude. The Upsilon Chi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa received the following from Wanda Smiley, Hospice Volunteer Coordinator: “I am the volunteer recruiter/trainer for Kitty Askins and just wanted to thank you and your group for making our patients and families feel special. Take care, and be blessed in all that you do.”

Many of the patients of the Kitty Askins Hospice Center are elderly, and the Upsilon Chi Chapter is motivated to connect their appreciation for elderly citizens with their Honors in Action Topic. The Chapter looks forward to sharing with their fellow Phi Theta Kappa members their research connecting the elderly with the “Culture of Competition.”

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Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society of Wilson Community College honored the residence at The Brian Center in Wilson with a treat on Halloween, October 31st. As a service project to the community, they collected socks for men and women and passed them out during their lunch time.

Thanks to those that had time to participate at The Brian Center and thanks again to all that donated socks:
- Donna Rhodes
- Erin Burton
- Staci Bowen
- John Bowen
- Percel Darden
- Eric Carlton
- Leah Fortner
- Louise Taybron
- Angela Grantham

Pictured left to right: Angela Grantham (ΦΘΚ Adviser), Alicia Ruffin (ΦΘΚ President), John Bowen, and Eric Carlton.
The Alpha Eta Kappa Chapter of Midlands Technical College is proud to announce that Dr. Marshall “Sonny” White, Ms. Sandi Oliver, and Ms. Sara Oswald each received prestigious awards at the 2013 Phi Theta Kappa Annual Convention in San Jose, California.

Dr. Marshall “Sonny” White, the president of Midlands Technical College, received the prestigious Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction that honors college presidents and CEOs who support the efforts of Phi Theta Kappa on his or her campus. Dr. White’s support for our College Project helped us secure then University of South Carolina head baseball coach Ray Tanner as the keynote for our C4 Finale Event. Dr. White encourages student success by enthusiastically motivating our new chapter inductees with his speech, “The Five Ps of Life Philosophy.” He explains how having a purpose and plan, having persistence and passion, and how building relations with people brings meaning, significance and value to our lives. Dr. White’s support of our chapter functions, of our officers and advisors has allowed our chapter to reach its Five Star Goal and to remain at Five Star for the last four years.

Ms. Sandi Oliver, the Vice President of Student Development Services, received the Distinguished College Administrator Award that honors College Administrators who support the efforts of Phi Theta Kappa on his or her campus. Ms. Oliver is the chapter’s longest serving administrative proponent at MTC. She is a clearinghouse of knowledge and information about Phi Theta Kappa and its programs. She supports the chapter each year by building a stronger foundation, by helping to develop new opportunities for Phi Theta Kappa members and officers, by helping to fund and finance the chapter activities, and by increasing visibility of Phi Theta Kappa on campus. Each spring she hosts an honors luncheon for our students who are named to the South Carolina All-State Academic Team. She follows many of our chapter members who have gone on to further their education in such prestigious places as Harvard, Columbia, and the University of South Carolina Darla Moore School of Business.

Ms. Sara Oswald, former chapter secretary and president, was awarded the Alumni Award of Appreciation. Sara currently serves as the Carolinas Alumni Chapter South Carolina Vice President. Sara is currently a student at the Harvard University Extension School. Sara received a full scholarship to attend Harvard because of her dedication to scholarship and to Phi Theta Kappa. Sara has also received the 2012 Distinguished Alumni member of the Carolinas Region and she was named to the Carolinas Hall of Honor as an Alumni. From Sara: “I can attest that telling my story at chapter inductions and regional conferences inspires others to seek me out for advice regarding their own college journeys. I always encourage each individual to fully live out the Phi Theta Kappa hallmarks in each aspect of life.”

Honored guests attending the Alpha Eta Kappa Spring Induction Ceremony
Left to right: Faculty advisor, Kitty Spires; College President & Shirley B. Gordon recipient Dr. Marshall “Sonny” White; Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Diane Carr; Vice President of Student Development Services & Distinguished Administrator recipient Ms. Sandi Oliver; Former Alpha Eta Kappa Chapter President & Phi Theta Kappa Alumni Appreciation Award recipient Ms. Sara Oswald; Former Alpha Eta Kappa advisor Dr. Tony Scotti; and Alpha Eta Kappa chapter President, Ms. Caroline Lamitie.
As a new member and VP of Scholarship of the Alpha Nu Sigma chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, I would like to take a moment to express the utmost gratitude to all involved in this year’s Honors Institute. As a returning student after a twenty plus year absence, I cannot express how much this experience meant to me. From the stunning campus surroundings provided by Villanova University to the pride of seeing Phi Theta Kappa highlighted at Citizens Bank Park during a Philly’s game, what struck me most during this intense week of lectures, discussion groups, and outings was the sense of fellowship and genuine encouragement from everyone I came across. After such Keynote Speakers as Carlotta Walls LaNier, Bill Rancic or Temple Grandin, we would come together as a group and have diverse and interesting discussions on the Culture of Competition. This was facilitated in large part to the great leadership provided by the Faculty Scholars. Thanks to Dr. Melissa Weinbrenner for her enthusiasm and spirit. There isn’t enough column space to convey every aspect of this jam packed week of scholarship, entertainment, and all the site seeing of Philadelphia with its amazing history. Kicking off the event with a lively debate by Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton in the “City of Firsts” was perfect from my perspective. Taking the open air bus tour of the city was definitely a highlight, with stops at Northern State Penitentiary, the country’s first full scale prison and the Mutter Museum at University of Pennsylvania’s Medical School, not to leave out a day at Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell.

I can’t wait to see what next year’s Honors Institute brings - I don’t think it can top Politics in Pig Latin done by the Capital Steps Comedy Troupe or especially that it’s where I learned to embrace my inner nerd and it was cool to crush on Thomas Jefferson.

The spring Alpha Nu Sigma yard sale was held on June 15 and was a complete success! Our chapter raised over $500 on what seemed the hottest day of the year. With members of the community donating items along with our chapter members, we had plenty of treasures up for grabs beginning at 7am. We had 17 members and volunteers helping with the event. All of the unsold items were donated to a local charity benefitting at-risk youth.
We’ve said goodbye to our former officers as they graduated, and now we’re proud to introduce to the Carolinas Region the new officer team for the Alpha Alpha Iota chapter of Phi Theta Kappa.

Graham Reed, President
Graham is a sophomore at York Tech who plans to transfer to pursue a Bachelor’s degree in Chemical Engineering. He joined Phi Theta Kappa after he saw the many benefits of membership, including increasing his employability. As an ambitious leader, he is excited about helping the chapter move forward and the opportunities that being active in Phi Theta Kappa may bring.

Kristina Fusco, Vice President of Leadership
Kristina is currently pursuing her second degree at York Tech, an Associate in Arts. She plans to transfer to pursue a Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science. She has been an active member of Phi Theta Kappa since 2010. She joined to meet new people, learn new things, and has been thankful for the opportunity that being an active member has brought her.

Rusty Helms, Vice President of Scholarship
Rusty is a sophomore at York Tech and will transfer to pursue a Bachelor’s Degree in Accounting. He joined in the hopes of representing his school with pride, meeting new people, learning new things and gaining valuable leadership skills.

Garrett McCluggage, Vice President of Service
Garrett is a sophomore at York Tech and will transfer to pursue a Bachelor’s Degree in Theology. He joined Phi Theta Kappa to help his community and college. He is most excited about gaining experience and expanding his horizons.

Jennifer Binau, Secretary
Jennifer is pursuing an Associate’s Degree in Nursing at York Tech. She joined Phi Theta Kappa to acknowledge her academic achievements and wanted to be an active member after learning about all that Phi Theta Kappa does. She is looking forward to the service projects and gaining leadership skills.

CONGRATULATIONS
A-B Tech and Phi Theta Kappa exceed Relay for Life goal
Alpha Upsilon Eta Chapter, Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College

A-B Tech’s chapter of Phi Theta Kappa is pleased to announce its success with this year’s Relay for Life of Buncombe event. The relay took place at the UNC -Asheville Strauss track field on Saturday, September 7. They set an initial goal of $1,500, which was surpassed raising a total of $3,624.62.

Team captains and Phi Theta Kappa members Paulette Gardner and David Beacham wanted to extend a special thank you to Dr. Beth Stewart, Dean of Arts and Sciences, who played an essential role in joining A-B Tech and Phi Theta Kappa to maximize its ability to raise awareness, funds, and general support for this event. The team would also like to thank all participants for their dedication and support in making this year’s Relay for Life event a tremendous success.

CFCC’s First Tapping Ceremony
Alpha Chi Sigma Chapter, Cape Fear Community College

Last spring I was fortunate enough to attend the Annual Convention in San Jose, CA. It truly was one of the most amazing events I ever had the honor of attending. If you have not been to one yet, trust me when I say, “Believe the hype!” The convention offered the opportunities to meet some of the most remarkable people from all over the country and the world. It also offered informational classes to learn just about everything Phi Theta Kappa. The Educational Forums and the Marketplace Mini-Sessions provide you the occasion to meet the experts on the topics but more importantly, you get to meet and hear from other members who have had success and failures and learn first-hand from their experiences.

While attending a Mini-Session on increasing chapter membership I met a chapter president who went on and on about “tapping,” how easy it was to do and what great results they got from it. I picked his brain for a bit and I knew immediately that I wanted to do this on our campus.

After getting my chapters’ support we decided to do a small test run this past fall. The Tapping Ceremony involved us getting dressed in our gowns and regalia and popping into “unsuspecting” classes to personally handout invitations to a handful of students. Then we gave a very brief presentation on why to join Phi Theta Kappa and the highlights of membership. The purpose of this is to generate excitement about becoming a Phi Theta Kappa member, spread the word and generate some great buzz about Phi Theta Kappa. Tapping not only honors the students but raises awareness of Phi Theta Kappa on our campus and hopefully encourages other students to strive for greater academic accomplishment. (continued on page 7)
Of course, the key to this is to not interrupt a class, but to give the instructor a “heads up.” Tapping is a well-planned, well-organized recruiting tool that is designed to surprise the students and embarrass them a little too. Luckily for us our advisor happened to have a dozen students that received invites to join Phi Theta Kappa so for our test run we kept it to the two classes he was teaching. We popped into the class in full cap, gown and regalia and invited the students who were being invited to join Phi Theta Kappa up to the front of the class. We then handed them a personal, printed invite to become members of Phi Theta Kappa. Many students were embarrassed and surprised but they were all very proud.

After we left each class, the students couldn’t stop talking about Phi Theta Kappa. Many students made intentions to do better to become members. Although we only had a small group for our test run we are very excited that not only every student we tapped is now a member of Phi Theta Kappa, two of them are officers!

Please feel free to contact myself or our Alpha Chi Sigma advisor if you would like to start a tapping program in your school.

Billy Koch
President, Alpha Chi Sigma
wkkoch259@mail.cfcc.edu
Alpha Phi Nu Fighting Cancer One Marshmallow at a Time
Alpha Phi Nu Chapter, Craven Community College

Officers, members, advisors and family members of the Alpha Phi Nu Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa gathered at the home of Elaine Rouse, Acting President, on Sunday, April 21 to work hard, have fun, and put together 300 marshmallow shooters. Now, if you’re asking yourself what a marshmallow shooter is, let me explain. It’s a device made from PVC pipe that can be used to “shoot” mini marshmallows. You would be amazed at how far those little marshmallows will travel, and how much fun it is! The kids just love them, the marshmallows are soft and don’t hurt, and they are biodegradable!

Our chapter had done the same thing for last year’s Relay for Life event, having made 200 shooters to sell. We sold out in about two hours! In fact, we were turning people away at such a rate that we had to have an announcement made to the crowd that they were all gone. This year, we set our sights on making 300 shooters. During the school year, our chapter went to different suppliers to attempt to receive donations for this project.

Due to the weak economy, we were unable to procure supplies through donations. The HR Department at Craven Community College realized that we were struggling; they decided to subsidize us so we could complete our project since they were also raising money for Relay for Life. Andrew Boerner, Vice-President of Service, and Pamela Baldwin, Co-Advisor, set out to find the supplies we needed. Upon arrival at our local Lowe’s, it was discovered that they did not have enough supplies in stock to complete the mission. Andrew and Pamela had to go all the way to Wilmington, NC to find enough supplies, wiping out the shelves at two additional Lowe’s before they were done.

We had one crew putting them together and another crew spray painting them in various colors and patterns. By the end of the afternoon, we had boxes filled to the brim with bright, freshly-painted marshmallow shooters ready for the crowds at the Relay for Life event, which was taking place the following Friday. After all our hard work, we gathered in the back yard for a nice BBQ chicken dinner. Elaine’s fiancée, Reid, was kind enough to cook the chicken for us again this year, and everyone else brought a dish to go with it. A really great time was had by all, and an additional bonus was several members in attendance decided to run for officer positions for the upcoming school year.

The following Friday, April 26, was the Relay for Life event, which took place at the Grover C. Fields Middle School football field in New Bern, NC. Our tent was set up, and people were lining up to buy their marshmallow shooters before we could even get them all out on the field! I guess those who missed out last year wanted to make sure they got one this time! It was a fantastic evening, with officers, members and alumni in attendance, some of whom are cancer survivors themselves. Although we did not sell out this year, we were able to raise $1,523.26. After expenses, we presented a check to the Relay for Life Foundation in the amount of $1,023.39! We received a personal thank you from our Director of HR, Mrs. Vickie Moseley-Jones, who also posted our accomplishment in our college’s weekly faculty and staff bulletin.

This was such a great experience for everyone involved. Not only did we accomplish what we set out to do, we built friendships and relationships that will carry over into the next school year and the rest of our lives.
Phi Theta Kappa and Carolinas Region Dates & Deadlines

Additional information for the Phi Theta Kappa International items listed below can be found by accessing the Phi Theta Kappa website at www.ptk.org and signing in using your login credentials. Contact the Regional Coordinator, John Sharpe via e-mail at john.sharpe@hgtc.edu for additional information on the Carolinas Region specific items and also watch the Phi Theta Kappa – Carolinas Region Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/30983157724/) for news and updates.

January 29, 2014
Five Star Chapter Development Plan Final Update Due

January 29, 2014
Phi Theta Kappa and Carolinas Region Hallmark Award Entries Due

January 29, 2014
Carolinas Region Super Stars, Carolinas Region Honors in Action Project (Eating Comfy in the Carolinas), and Carolinas Region Service Project (Remembering Those Left Behind) Reporting Forms Due.

February 11, 2014
Phi Theta Kappa Annual Convention Early Bird Registration Deadline

February 14, 2014
Carolinas Regional Convention Registrations and Fees Due

February 14, 2014
Carolinas Regional Convention Hotel Reservation Deadline

February 21, 2014
Mosal Award Applications Due (Advisors)

February 21, 2014
Marshall Award Applications Due (Advisors)

March 14-16, 2014
Carolinas Regional Convention, Charleston Marriott, Charleston, SC

March 24, 2014
Phi Theta Kappa Annual Convention Hotel Reservation Deadline

March 31, 2014
Phi Theta Kappa Regular Annual Convention Registration Deadline

April 4, 2014
Nota Bene Submission Deadline

April 24-26, 2014
96th Phi Theta Kappa Annual Convention, Orlando, Florida

If you would like to have an article published in the next Carolinas Region Newsletter please send your articles via e-mail as a Word attachment to the Regional Secretary, Kelly Botoulas at kjbotoulas@gmail.com and to the Regional Coordinator, John Sharpe at john.sharpe@hgtc.edu. We would love to hear what types of projects and events our chapters from the Carolinas have been involved with and share them with the rest of the region.