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Alpha Nu Sigma Demonstrates Leadership

By Patricia Rosenthal

The term “Grand Strand” refers to the stretch of land extending from Cape Fear, NC, to Georgetown, SC, an area that encompasses all three Horry-Georgetown Technical College (HGTC) campuses in the neighboring South Carolina towns of Conway, Myrtle Beach, and Georgetown. Recent years have seen burgeoning local economies and frenetic real estate development intended for families, retirees, and the wealthy alike, although a recent downturn in the

economy has put a damper on such things. Tourism, the lifeblood of South Carolina’s economy, is off by double digits, but many families as well as local and out-of-area students continue to find respite from the heat in the cool Atlantic coastal waters. Many of Horry-Georgetown Technical College’s Phi Theta Kappa members don’t take classes during the (cont. pg.4)



Alpha Zeta Beta Pulls Triple Duty

Alpha Zeta Beta pulled triple duty at Tri-County Technical College’s Summer Graduation on August 6, 2009. April Chandler, Chapter President, Maine Dawkins, outgoing Vice President, Dennis Thurman, incoming Vice President of Leadership and Fellowship, and chapter member, Stacy Wittrock served as marshals for the ceremony. Alpha Zeta Beta serves as marshals at the Spring and Summer graduations every year. The chapter also took part in Project Graduation for the second time in the chapter’s history. Calvin Mann, incoming Communication Officer, collected the non-perishable food items and presented them to Floyd Hill, (cont. pg. 5)



Step Up For Soldiers Program

By: Nanette Eggert
VP of Service



Alpha Chi Sigma is proud to participate in Step Up For Soldiers as a service project this year. Our chapter and community suffered a terrible loss recently inspiring us to “Step Up” in a way never undertaken by Phi Theta Kappa before. On December 1st 2008 the local Wilmington National Guard unit, the 120th Combined Arms Battalion, left in support of the efforts in the Middle East. June 29th 2009 saw the biggest loss of life to one National Guard Unit since WWII when Wilmington’s National Guard Unit lost 4 members in a single incident. An IED exploded that day killing all 4 soldiers: Sgt First Class Edward C. Kramer, Sgt Juan C. Baldeosingh, Sgt Roger L. Adams Jr, and SPC Robert L. Bittiker. The four soldiers left behind a wife each and a combined total of 10 school-aged children.

Alpha Chi Sigma teamed up with Stepupforsoldiers.org, a local nonprofit organization, to raise money for two things these families needed. We created a scholarship for the children of the soldiers lost on June 29th. So far, the scholarship has over \$2000 and is still rising. We are also selling pins and bracelets to help pay for the memorial plaques for these soldiers that will go on the memorial plot near the Wilmington Airport. So far, we have raised \$175 for this effort toward the total of \$1000 needed to purchase all four plaques. With the support of some of the members of Alpha Chi Sigma, we were also able to contribute seven bags of supplies to include in stepupforsoldiers.org’s annual packages from home. Over 300 care packages to foreign deployed soldiers were sent in this campaign. If you would like to contribute to either of these worthy causes, donations can be made @ stepupforsoldiers.org. Simply include a note with your donation saying you would like it to go to either of these causes and the money will go to them.



Better World Books

The latest textbook recycling drive on both of Edgecombe Community College's campuses can be considered another success. This August, 84 of the books collected are eligible for other schools and students (who cannot afford the texts themselves) to reuse, whether the future homes of the books will be in the United States, Latin America, Africa, or Asia. In addition, 31 older books will be donated locally to help raise funds for two homeless shelters. During this book drive at the end of the summer semester, Alpha Omega Nu packed up even more books than they did at the end of the spring semester.

Recycling textbooks does more than just help other schools and students, or local worthy causes. The repeated use of the same books saves trees by reducing the amount of needed paper. Every recycled textbook also creates other benefits, such as reductions in greenhouse gases and the demand for electricity that the production of books requires. Moreover, finding good homes for these books greatly decreases the waste in landfills.

The totals from just one book drive may not sound very impressive. However, the results seem to be more remarkable as time passes and efforts add up. Alpha Omega Nu has now sponsored six Better World Books drives at ECC. During those drives, they have sorted and shipped hundreds of books. When their endeavors are combined with the outcomes from other community colleges nearby, the numbers are truly astounding. In the Carolinas Region of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, 24 chapters participate in Better World Books' programs. Since the beginning of 2008, over 16,000 books have been amassed and recycled by these chapters in these two states alone. Just imagine the effect that has on the environment and the academic attempts of others! If groups in just two states are able to gather that much, think about what is being accomplished nationwide! Many small actions are accumulating into a definite impact. Anyone who has donated any books in one of our drives has been a part of that; every contribution has counted.



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summer semester so they can work or have time to go to the beach, but it doesn't mean that club activity ceases. Attendance at officer and member meetings is typically lighter during the summer months, but those in leadership in HGTC's Alpha Nu Sigma chapter have made the most of their eased academic schedules this summer to research and implement several exciting new initiatives geared towards helping students whose lives here on the Grand Strand cannot by any stretch of the imagination be considered "grand," and whose lives don't at all resemble a "day at the beach."

Alpha Nu Sigma members have long had a heart for recycling, as well as for mentoring disadvantaged youth, and efforts are now underway to further develop and extend the recycling and mentoring programs to directly benefit both Horry and Georgetown county schools. Recent awareness of what is undoubtedly the Grand Strand's least "grand" issue - that of the plight of hundreds of local students who are homeless - has prompted Alpha Nu Sigma leadership to redouble their recycling and mentoring efforts with a goal of raising funds, supplies, and awareness for those students who are in dire need of intercession. Area schools are assisting these youth, but charitable donations from the community are down and the need is great

Several Alpha Nu Sigma officers have conducted extensive research on the homelessness situation in anticipation of becoming part of the solution to a problem that, tragically, is of national significance and not limited to this community. Over 1.3 million children experience homelessness in the U.S. at some time each year; that number is increasing because of the current economic downturn and the increase in unemployment and housing foreclosures. We were shocked to learn that one out of every 50 youths is homeless, and only one out of every four homeless students actually graduates from high school. Thirteen homeless youth die every day in America, and one of every 18 youths doesn't know where their next meal will come from.

The statistics are jarring. Our response to this human tragedy has not been ignoble; rather, Alpha Nu Sigma leadership voted unanimously at a recent officer's meeting to develop a voice of advocacy that we might raise awareness of the plight of youthful students locally and nationally, and we also pledged our efforts to raise funds and materials for schools and agencies that are already interceding with these students locally. How are we doing this? We have begun purchasing and gathering school supplies to donate to area schools, and we are organizing a school-wide project to involve all campuses in the effort. Contact has already been made with an area school where we are on track to begin mentoring students who lack a proficiency in reading.

Through this intentional outreach to homeless and disadvantaged students, Alpha Nu Sigma officers and members are in a position to demonstrate leadership not only in the classroom and on campus, but in the community, as well. Although we are in the beginning stages of developing a plan, we are convinced that it will come together through a unified effort, a clear vision, and much perseverance. It is our sincere hope that as word of our efforts spreads, especially throughout the Phi Theta Kappa membership, others will adopt our mission as their own and seek justice in their respective communities for homeless students who are downtrodden and incapable of providing for their own needs. Together, we can change the world!

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a representative from AIM. Thirty-one non-perishable items were collected for the food pantry at Anderson Interfaith Ministries (AIM). Anderson Interfaith Ministries is an organization of people and churches of various faiths providing assistance to the needy, while encouraging and guiding them to function independently within their own resources. The programs that AIM offers include: **Emergency Assistance, Women & Children Succeeding, and Christmas Program, Back to School Backpack Program, Ramps /Minor Repairs Program, Community Connections, Food Pantry Program, and Wood Ministry.** If you would like more information about AIM or their programs, visit their website at www.aimcharity.org . Angela Shaw, Community Outreach Coordinator for AIM, said in a phone interview, “The donated food items have come at a time when we need donations the most. We are seeing an increasing number of people coming to us for help.” Calvin Mann also served as an usher by giving programs to the guests of the graduates.



Running for International Office

By: Kerry Cutler

Running for International Office can be the most rewarding of all Phi Theta Kappa experiences. Win or lose, you will grow as an individual. You will learn your strengths and weaknesses. You'll bring recognition to your chapter, your region and your college. But most important, you will get to share your experiences with people from all walks of life and every corner of the globe.

I initially joined Phi Theta Kappa for the bullet point. I wanted nothing more than to add it to my resume and perhaps grab a scholarship or two. Then I attended my first chapter function. It was a pizza sale on campus. From that moment on I was hooked. I realized then and there that I had become part of an organization of individuals motivated by the desire to serve others and dedicated to promoting scholarship and leadership, not only on campus but within the community.

I quickly learned that Phi Theta Kappa is more than just an Honors organization. Phi Theta Kappa is about shared experiences and making a difference in the world around you. I am who I am today in part because of my experiences as a Phi Theta Kappa member and International Officer.

As an International Officer, I learned that leaders are made, not born. I have learned that leadership is what you make it and that being a good leader means leading by example. I have learned to use leadership as a way to inspire others to do great things. One example of this would be my visit to the Center for Excellence. It was truly inspirational. I will never forget walking down the "Hall of Fame" where all the plaques are hanging. On those plaques are the names of all the International Officers who came before us. Clearly, we stand on the shoulders of giants. In that same moment I realized that I had become an example for others to follow. In the years ahead, my children and even my grandchildren might one day visit the Center for Excellence and see my name there. Seeing my name on the International Officers plaque is a reminder to me that each of us is responsible for all those who will follow. Only we control our destiny. We are the ones responsible for our legacy.

In addition, I have finely tuned my core beliefs. They were always there before, but I am more resolute with their application in my life. I have learned that I have limitations but that many of those limitations can be overcome through perseverance and the application of my core beliefs. Lastly, I have learned that I am okay just as I am. Life is not about being what other people want you to be. It is about being who you really are.

Great journeys begin with a single step. My journey began with my decision to run for International Office. I encourage you to take that same journey of self-discovery. As an International Officer Candidate, you will form bonds with your fellow members that will last a lifetime. You will stretch the bounds of your courage, explore your strengths and learn from your challenges. Most importantly, you will truly come to know yourself. "Rise up. Take the journey."



Honors In Action 101: One Quick and Easy Project

By: Kerry Cutler

Dialogue. Encarta defines it as a formal discussion or negotiation, especially between opposing sides in a political or international context. What better way to create a quick project for your chapter while implementing the Honors Study Topic than with a formal discussion?

The steps are simple. First pick a topic of interest to the chapter that ties in nicely with the Honors Study Topic. You can get ideas about which topic to choose by studying the Honors Program Guide. For the sake of this article let's pick a topic that has been on everyone's mind lately: healthcare. Healthcare reform is a huge issue that affects everyone so each of us has a stake in it. Next, do your research. For my topic, I started my research with an article recently published online by NPR. The article discussed fear mongering and its effectiveness in killing legislation for healthcare reform. You'll need to research several articles to validate the need for discussion and promote different points of view. While doing your research consider who you will ask to moderate the discussion. It should be someone who can remain neutral so they do not appear to take sides during the dialogue. You should also be thinking about who you intend to ask to sit on your panel. The panel folks are the ones who will be exchanging ideas and presenting their various points of view once your moderator has presented them with a question. Three panelists is great but you can always add more if you can get them to volunteer. For this topic a good mix might be experts who are healthcare providers (a doctor or nurse), someone from the insurance industry (a claims person or perhaps even a policy setter for the company) and perhaps a couple others. Who you choose is important as you want your audience to get a sampling of various opinions so they can weigh in on the discussion later. Next, come up with a set of questions that your moderator can ask the panel. Time limits should be set so that one expert does not get more time than another. Once your panel has had the opportunity to answer questions, select several people from your audience to come up and ask a question. Depending on the length of time you have set aside for the entire event this open forum could take 30 minutes or more. Finally, quantify your results. How many people attended? What kinds of questions came from the audience? How are they related to the Honors Study Topic or to the topic being discussed? Be specific. You want your results to be significant and measurable.

Who should you invite to view the discussion? That is up to the chapter. Remember that the more people you invite, the more are likely to show up and the better the response will be from everyone involved.

This idea has several purposes. First it engages people in active dialogue. Second, if you follow the steps outlined above, your project should easily meet all the Hallmark requirements. But why not take it a step further? Get your college president or other administrators involved and make it a true College Project. However you decide to handle it, this project can be a real winner for your chapter.



Alpha Upsilon Eta Offers Speakers

By: Veronica Dooly

As a part of Alpha Upsilon Eta chapter's efforts to capitalize on our enthusiasm and experience from the International Honors Institute in Richmond, Virginia, we have instituted a faculty lecture series on the Honor Topic, The Paradox of Affluence: Choices, Challenges, and Consequences. The first lecture, by Ms. Allison Stinson, a Psychology instructor at A-B Tech, occurred on Monday, September 28. Mrs. Stinson's presentation was titled "If Money Can Buy Happiness, Maybe I Just Don't Know Where to Shop." Refreshments and discussion followed. Ms. Stinson was a lively, entertaining, and informative speaker. Many members and guests came away with a challenge to re-examine their concepts about the source of contentment.

The next faculty lecturers will be Dr. Dennis King and Ms. Barbara Brown-Smith on November 2 at 7:15 in Sycamore Room 201. As before, all college staff and students and our community are invited. The topic for the panel discussion will be The Paradox of Affluence in Education.

