

ΦΘΚ[®]

Phi Theta Kappa
International Honor Society

Society Alumni Associations'
Best Practices Directory

2007

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.”

Alumni Association Mission

The establishment of community-based, senior institution-based and region-based alumni associations should be the focal point for directing the loyalty of the alumnus into helpful and constructive channels to strengthen the mission of the Society.

This Best Practices Directory is a collaborative effort based on the works and service of the Society’s Alumni Associations who fervently support the people, programs, and priorities of Phi Theta Kappa with thanks to our 2006-07 Alumni Advisory Council Members:

Shirley Scarbrough, Chair
Pattie Van Atter
BJ Smith

Participation

What service or program does your Alumni Association provide to your members and or region that encourage participation?

Mississippi College Phi Theta Kappa Alumni Association

Our first directive in serving as an Alumni Association is to support the community colleges. We do this in many ways. We serve through partnerships and promotions that engage community college, but also create opportunities for fellowship as well. Some include, the Regional Website for MS/LA, sponsoring the Regional Officer Team, supporting chapters attending conferences, creating a regional service initiative which encourages participation from all chapters in the region, etc.

The Missouri Alumni Association held its first Good as Gold

Celebration during the annual Missouri Honors Institute to kick off Phi Theta Kappa's good as Gold Week. The purpose of the event was to encourage Missouri chapters to participate in Good as Gold Week activities, to share their Phi Theta Kappa spirit, to spread the word about the Society on campus, and to celebrate Phi Theta Kappa's Founder's Day. Alumni hung Good as Gold posters throughout the conference facility, opened each general session with attendance prizes, and provided ideas chapters could incorporate into their Good as Gold Week activities.

The alumni also hosted a Good as Gold Celebration party at a dance complete with Gold-themed decorations and refreshments which included a cake to commemorate Phi Theta Kappa's 88th Founder's Day.

During the final general session, alumni presented Good as Gold recognition certificates to the region's advisors for their support and dedication to Phi Theta Kappa. In addition, each chapter received Good as Gold posters to use during their Good as Gold Week activities. The Good as Gold Celebration proved to be so well-received by the region's chapters, it will become an annual event.

Alpha Beta: Blinn College, Brenham

We assisted in hosting a Pink Ladies banquet to raise funds for Relay for Life.....students, alumni and advisors all participated

Delta of Florida/ Florida State University/ Florida Region

We try to schedule activities that would interest students. Our students seem to be most interested in volunteering, campus movies, and athletic events. We have also started a Phi Theta Kappa Tours—to acquaint students new to the area with the campus and community.

Alpha Phi Alumni Association

Alumni members had assisted at the chapter's participation at the American Cancer Society Relay for Life and Making Strides against Breast Cancer.

Carolinas Region Alumni Association

We have a core group of alumni who provide support at regional meetings including booking hotels, managing hotel services during the meeting, setting up the awards banquet, and holding the alumni induction ceremony at the regional convention. Most of the new members inducted are students just weeks prior to graduation, already getting involved with our Alumni Association. We are also available as guest speakers for chapter functions.

Middle States Region Alumni Association

Besides our major Officers Academy listed below the Middle States Region also supports and encourages participation in the Annual Region Summer Picnic at Hershey Park (Fellowship) and The New York Getaway Weekend (Fellowship). The alumni are logistical supporters for the Regional Convention and have acted when requested as forum presenters at the Convention, State Leadership Conferences and Mini Honors Institute. Alumni Members act as administrative support representatives to the Regional Electronic Support Forums. Alumni also have speakers willing to be available to speak at induction ceremonies and other chapter events when invited.

Our "*Kappan Klowning*" program collects items submitted on wish lists by pediatric units including arts supplies, children's books, video games and other items. These items are distributed to the unit when acceptable by members dressed as clowns.

Athens State University Phi Theta Kappa Alumni Association

We are a relatively new chapter. At the moment we offer Athens State University Phi Theta Kappa Alumni Association T-shirts and students are approved to wear honors cords at graduation.

Delta of Missouri Alumni Association/affiliation: Chi Delta Chapter -East Central College

To encourage the Chi Delta members to attend regional and international conventions, Delta of Missouri Alumni Association donates four \$300 Discover Phi Theta Kappa Scholarships to the Chi Delta Chapter each year. Since the establishment of this scholarship fund, Chi Delta has been sending record numbers of members to the Missouri Honors Institute, the Missouri Leadership Conference, the Missouri Regional Convention, and the Phi Theta Kappa International Convention.

Beta Chapter/affiliation: Tau Iota, Ocean County College, Middle States
Harvest Party for Children with Cancer held annually for the past 10 years at Ocean County College (began as a Tau Iota Service Project). Participation is available to and has included all chapters in our region.

Greater Northwest Region Alumni Association

We provide alumni members for speaking engagements at colleges in our specific areas of the region for events like orientations or inductions. And have a list of several types of workshops we can offer for regional events.

West Texas A&M University Phi Theta Kappa Alumni/affiliation: West Texas A&M University

We currently offer several scholarships.

Texas Region Alumni Association

Regional mentoring and aid program for members and our region. During our regional conferences, the Texas Region Alumni Association members helped with registration and check-in maintaining a steady flow. Alumni members provide workshops to help guide members on transferring to the University, programs, and initiatives in Phi Theta Kappa. At each convention, the alumni are in charge of the main college fair and getting senior institutions involved and participating in the conference.

Fundraisers

If your association raises funds for the association and or your affiliation, describe a fundraising project that has proven successful.

Mississippi College Phi Theta Kappa Alumni Association/affiliation:
Mississippi College

One of the most successful fundraisers for our association is partnering with Belk Department stores to sponsor a School-day sale. Student's sale admission to the stores for \$5, we keep the profit, plus the store gives additional incentives.

Missouri Alumni Association/Affiliation: Missouri Region

To help raise funds to support the Missouri Leaders of Promise scholarship program, the MAA designed a Missouri Leaders of Promise pin. The one-inch diameter cloisonné pin features a centered gold outline of Missouri on a white background, overlaid with the Phi Theta Kappa Greek letters. Surrounding the state outline is a royal blue band with the words "Missouri Leaders of Promise" at the top and "Phi Theta Kappa" at the bottom. The association offers the pins for sale throughout the year and at marketplace sessions during regional events. Since its introduction in 2006, sales of the highly sought after pin have provided enough funds to support one scholarship and to enable the association to increase the amounts of future Missouri Leaders of Promise scholarships.

Alpha Beta/affiliation: Beta Alpha from Blinn College, Brenham

In the past we have hosted a secretary's day luncheon and raised enough funds to endow a scholarship.

Beta Alpha Phi Alumni Association/ affiliation: Beta Alpha Phi

Alumni members assisted at the chapter's Chinese Auction fundraiser for the American Cancer Society.

Carolinas Region Alumni Association/affiliation: Carolinas Region
We sell Carolina Region pins for \$5 each

Middle States Region Alumni Association/affiliation: Middle States Region
Dollar For a Scholar. The alumni sponsor this scholarship program. Tickets are sold by the chapters throughout the year. Half the cost of the dollar ticket goes to the chapter and half goes to the Alumni Association for the Scholarship Fund. Prizes are awarded at the Regional Convention. This fundraiser is especially successful because it affords the chapter the chance to raise money at the same time they raise money for the scholarship fund.

Athens State University Phi Theta Kappa Alumni Association/affiliation: Athens State University

The most effective fundraiser to date has been the Fiddlers Convention. Every first full weekend in October there is a Fiddlers Convention on the Athens State Campus. The Phi Theta Kappa Alumni Association sponsored a food vendor and raised our operating budget for the year. We also make a small profit off of every t-shirt sold.

Delta of Missouri Alumni Association/affiliation: Chi Delta Chapter -East Central College

Delta of MO s most successful fundraiser is our annual barbeque held at a local Wal-Mart store. We offer four choices of meat, all barbequed or plain, along with potato salad, slaw, baked beans, chips, and soda or lemonade. Customers can choose just a sandwich or a plate consisting of one meat and two sides. For the past several years, we have been very successful in acquiring donations of food and money from local grocery stores and meat markets.

Beta Chapter/affiliation: Tau Iota, Ocean County College
Annual rose sale at Ocean County College graduation.

Greater Northwest Region Alumni Association/affiliation: Greater Northwest Region

We did a wine-tasting fundraiser for our association. Weather created some problems (major thunder storm), but a great time was had by all. Members catered hors d' oeuvres to compliment wines at a local winery. One member had her husband playing jazz piano as folks arrived.

Michigan Region Alumni Association/affiliation: Michigan Region

The Michigan Region Alumni Association has created a proactive fundraiser that benefits the Region and all attendees at our conventions. The back pack raffle proves to be an educational treasure. The Alumni Board obtains donations to fill our back pack raffle. The backpack is just more than a few supplies. We include a dictionary, CD s, dictionary, a T-180 Calculator and a flash drive which is an invaluable tool for writing and copying reports, files and papers. The Alumni offer this opportunity at each conference during the year which totals three backpacks, one opportunity for each conference. We sell the tickets during the conference and award the lucky winner at the end of each conference. The funds for these drawings go directly to scholarships that the Alumni make available for the regional attendees at the regional convention.

Texas Regional Alumni Association/Affiliation Texas Region

We set up a table collecting donations and raffling off items donated by alumni members and businesses as well as theme baskets at regional events.

Scholarships

Describe any scholarship funds that your association provides to active chapter, college institutions or region.

Mississippi College Phi Theta Kappa Alumni Association/affiliation:
Mississippi College

We provide scholarship funds to many chapters for students attending conferences with Phi Theta Kappa. In addition to this type of scholarship program, we work closely to support the Leader's of Promise scholarship program and the scholarship program of our university.

Missouri Alumni Association/affiliation: Missouri Region

The Missouri Alumni Association provides the Good as Gold scholarship to one active chapter in attendance at every regional conference or convention. The purpose of the scholarship is to promote attendance and participation in regional events and to provide financial support to Missouri chapters. Selection of the recipient chapter is made by a random drawing from among all chapters that bring members to a regional event. Each selected chapter receives \$100 to benefit its members through chapter programs and activities. The Association has awarded \$1100 to Missouri chapters since the scholarship was introduced in 2003. The scholarship has been instrumental in increasing chapter attendance and participation in regional events.

Alpha Beta/affiliation: Beta Alpha from Blinn College, Brenham

We have an endowed scholarship that is given annually to a Phi Theta Kappa member.

Middle States Region Alumni Association/affiliation: Middle States Region

The Alumni Transfer Scholarship awards a \$1,000 transfer scholarship to a student transferring to a four year college. The Daniel Houghtaling Dollar For Scholar Scholarship awards \$250 to up to two students continuing their education at their community college.

Athens State University Phi Theta Kappa Alumni/Association affiliation:
Athens State University/Senior Institution

Our chapter gives eight (8) scholarships to surrounding junior institutions for 2006-2007.

Delta of Missouri Alumni Association/affiliation: Chi Delta Chapter ~East
Central College

Delta of Missouri's scholarship program consists of two types of scholarships, the Discover Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship (given to the Chapter to send its members to conventions) and the Barb Johnson Phi Theta Kappa Continued Excellence Award (awarded to outstanding individual Chi Delta members). We award up to two Chi Delta members \$300 per year to use while at the community college. Our scholarship is based on the Leaders of Promise Scholarship, with one notable exception. Our credit hour requirement is based on the number of hours remaining in the student's program rather than the number of hours already completed. The requirement is designed to guarantee that the students plan to attend the community college at least part-time for the entire academic year for which the award is given, but gives students the opportunity to apply who might plan to take more credit hours at the community college than the average 2-yr student. For example, we have found that the maximum-credit-hour limit of other scholarship programs often exclude from consideration students who have changed their majors in trying to decide what they want to do with their lives, those with more than one major, those who are able to complete additional coursework prior to transferring for cheaper tuition rates, and part-time/non-traditional students (of which we have many at our community college) who would reach the maximum-credit-hour limit of other scholarship programs several semesters (often several years) before completing their degree.

Beta Chapter/affiliation: Tau Iota, Ocean County College

Alumni fund is available for scholarship opportunities to Tau Iota chapter.

Greater Northwest Region Alumni Association/affiliation: Greater
Northwest Region

We provide two types of scholarships one is a small stipend to thank regional officers for their year of service. The other is named for a revered regional coordinator from the past. The Joan Fedor Alumni Award of

Distinction is awarded at the end of the year and is judged by an application process.

Michigan Region Alumni Association/affiliation: Michigan Region

The Alumni provides an excellent opportunity for all attendees available for a rabbit in the hat scholarship drawing in the amount of \$200. The only criterion is that members attend the Regional Convention. This allows even our Alumni the opportunity to get into the drawing for a chance to win. Everyone is invited to place their name on a ticket and at the end of the convention, a name is drawn. By virtue of being attendance, the winner is awarded a scholarship in the amount of \$200.

Encouragement

Describe a program that encourages participation in support of the people, programs, and priorities of Phi Theta Kappa.

Mississippi College Phi Theta Kappa Alumni Association/affiliation:
Mississippi College

The one that most directly comes to my mind is the Regional Service Initiatives that we present to our membership. This allows us to support the International Service project, while empowering chapters to invest in projects that build in complexity. It allows chapters to utilize a fantastic framework that serves as a springboard for chapters and alumni alike.

Missouri Alumni Association/affiliation: Missouri Region

Supporting the People, Programs and Priorities of Phi Theta

Kappa: What Alumni Can Do For You! is a program developed by the Missouri Alumni Association to increase awareness of alumni support among the region's members and chapters, and to encourage new alumni to participate in activities that will support the mission of Phi Theta Kappa. Through presentations at regional events and chapter meetings, the Missouri Alumni Association provides valuable information to encourage chapters to utilize alumni assistance in their programs and activities and to inform new alumni of ways they can support the people, programs and priorities of Phi Theta Kappa.

The Association developed a seven-page handout and informational brochures that are distributed during these presentations. Since the program was implemented, alumni membership and participation has increased by nearly 25% and the region's chapters utilize alumni support with greater frequency.

Alpha Beta/affiliation: Beta Alpha from Blinn College, Brenham

We participate in the annual Relay for Life and also assist in hosting an annual fall festival for the Boys and Girls club.

Middle States Region Alumni Association/affiliation: Middle States Region Regional Officers Academy - The Alumni Association is the backbone of the Middle States Regional Officers Academy. This is held each summer for one day prior to the Regional Honors Institute. Alumni members have developed a mock chapter program where a years worth of chapter planning is conducted. Participants are required to work with chapter officers and members from across the region rather than just from their own chapter and are introduced to Regional and International activities and Programs.

Athens State University Phi Theta Kappa Alumni Association/affiliation: Athens State University

Our average student is involved in several organizations.

The Phi Theta Kappa Alumni Association has worked in conjunction with other clubs and organizations on campus in a canned food drive and Operation Santa Claus. We are also working on getting a group of members together to work on a "Women's Build" through Habitat for Humanity.

Delta of Missouri Alumni Association/affiliation: Chi Delta Chapter ~East Central College

Delta members serve as mentors for the Chi Delta membership, offering help with writing scholarship essays, searching for transfer schools, and giving information about the universities we have attended.

Beta Chapter/affiliation: Tau Iota, Ocean County College
Harvest Party for Children with Cancer.

Greater Northwest Region Alumni Association/Affiliation: Greater Northwest Region

Our past president created a membership leadership and motivational program entitled "Let's Go" for use by alumni at regional leadership training seminars.

Michigan Region Alumni Association/affiliation: Michigan Region

MRAA takes the lead in Leadership/Mock Chapter. As the chapters work diligently in creating their chapter during this conference, MRAA conscientiously judges these submissions for content, creativity, and critique. This information is shared with the attendees. The experience

of learning takes place during the weekend and ends with MRAA giving constructive suggestions on what each chapter should consider when submitting their real hallmarks to International Headquarters.

Texas Regional Alumni Association/affiliation: Texas Region

Alumni members provide workshops to help guide members on transferring to the University, programs, and initiatives in Phi Theta Kappa. At each convention, the alumni are in charge of the main college fair and getting senior institutions involved and participating in the conference.

Idea Exchange

Missouri Alumni Association

1. The Missouri Alumni Association offers three, (3) \$300 Missouri Leaders of Promise Scholarships annually to qualified Phi Theta Kappa members from the Missouri Region to help defray educational expenses while enrolled in a two- year college and to develop leadership potential by engaging students in Society programs.

In addition to the \$300 scholarship, recipients will receive a frame able certificate and a Missouri Leaders of Promise lapel pin. The scholarship is actively promoted throughout the year through presentations at regional events and chapter meetings and induction ceremonies, postings on the Missouri Region and Missouri Alumni Association websites, and email promotions to chapter advisors.

Beginning with the 2007-2008 academic year, the Missouri Leaders of Promise Scholarship will be increased to three (3) awards of \$400 each.

2. The Missouri Alumni Association coordinates the annual Phi Theta Kappa Missouri Region Transfer College Fair held at the regional convention. MAA alumni are responsible for everything from inviting college reps to ensuring the exhibit tables are set up, and greeting the representatives upon their arrival at the convention site. Invitations are focused on Phi Theta Kappa

Partners in the Missouri Region who offer Phi Theta Kappa Transfer Scholarships. Invitations are also extended to non-partner senior institutions in Missouri.

College reps are provided exhibit tables and an allotted time to meet with convention members about Phi Theta Kappa Scholarships and their transfer plans. All students and advisors received a 17-page copy of the Missouri Region Transfer College Fair Program and Scholarship Directory (put together by the alumni).

The transfer college fair is held during an extended lunch period. During the program, the colleges are recognized and their representatives are introduced. College reps are also invited to bring an incentive item such as a t-shirt, sweatshirt, or mug to give away at the conclusion of the college fair. Students who visit a college table fill out an attendance form which then goes into a drawing for the prizes. Only students who meet with a college rep are eligible for the college fair attendance prizes.

At the conclusion of the college fair, college exhibitors and students are asked to complete evaluation forms which are compiled and utilized to implement improvements for future college fairs.

3. The MAA alumni provide a variety of support during Missouri Region and chapter events. Regional events include the Missouri Leadership Conference, Missouri Honors Institute, and the Regional Convention. Members of the Association have been responsible for working with the host chapter and the regional coordinator team to bring about successful events. The Alumni take active roles in assisting with the event registration process, by presenting educational forums and general session presentations based on the Honors Study Topic, by coordinating the acquisition and distribution of event attendance prizes, by providing advice and serving as judges for the Mock Chapter Exercise at Leadership Conference, by coordinating the annual transfer college fair, presenting educational forums, and presenting Hallmark Awards during the Regional Convention.

MAA alumni also provide support to the region by serving as chapter induction speakers; career mentors, scholarship and awards essay reviewers and editors, participants in chapter officer orientations, and assistance in chapter programs and fundraising activities.

Delta of Missouri Alumni Association

One of our best practices has been our semi-annual Phi Theta Kappa Night. This is held each semester in conjunction with Chi Delta spring and fall induction ceremonies. We host a scholarship fair, fellowship, and dance on the night of the ceremony. Every senior institution offering Phi Theta Kappa transfer scholarships in Missouri is represented at our scholarship fair, as well as information on scholarships offered to Phi Theta Kappa members from other organizations and alumni associations. This gives an opportunity for all Phi Theta Kappa inductees to see what scholarships are available just for being a member of Phi Theta Kappa. Following the induction ceremony, we give all inductees and their families and friends a chance to get to know each other and find out what benefits can come along with their membership by talking to fellow members, chapter officers and advisors, alumni, and college administrators.

Delta of Missouri's executive committee also hosts a retreat each summer for the Chi Delta Chapter's newly-elected officer team. We hold the weekend-long retreat at a local campground, providing the new group of officers a fun team-building opportunity to get to know each other, learn about Phi Theta Kappa and their new roles as Chapter officers, ask questions of their alumni to draw from our experience, and to brainstorm for project ideas to get them off to a great start in the upcoming academic year. We have seen newly elected officers come into this weekend as 5 individuals from 5 different towns, who don't really know anything about each other and have nothing in common but their Phi Theta Kappa membership and a feeling of nervous anticipation over what lies ahead, and leave the retreat an enthusiastic team full of common goals and ambitions for the upcoming year. We have also found that the Chapter's officers are more comfortable asking us for assistance when they need it and that they communicate with each other and with us much better throughout the year after the two executive committees have spent an entire weekend together getting to know one another. It is not only a great learning experience for Chi Delta's officers, but it's a great fellowship between Chi Delta and Delta and goes a long way in fostering the close working relationship of the Chapter and its alumni association.

Michigan Region Alumni Association

Communication between the MRAA and Michigan Regional Board excels as board and chapter members value the experience alumni offer.

MRAA takes on one of the most essential responsibilities by facilitating, mentoring and supporting at the Michigan Regional Officer Orientation. The Michigan Region Alumni Representative, while also a sanctioned member of the Michigan Region Officer team, is charged with the essential tools in the initial development of the Regional Board.

MRAA takes pride in their role as they judge the yearbook, performing arts and creative arts competition at our Regional Convention. While the region attendees enter these competitions to showcase their talents, MRAA also selects best in show.

Pi of Texas

Texas A&M University Commerce

An Alumni Association is the continuation of success in Phi Theta Kappa where students continue to grow in the hallmarks guiding them toward an educational knowledge and respect for the school and community in which they live. The Pi of Texas Alumni Association is one such group that embraces these ideals and skyrockets members to growth and success through three primary Association goals: increasing outreach programs with chapters in the Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas regions aiding them with 5-Star success; increasing Association participation on campus and the community; and increasing scholarships at Texas A&M University-Commerce as well as helping students within the Texas region find scholarships at institutions of their choice. Our Association accomplishes and continues to exceed all goals it sets for itself and is worthy of the Alumni Association Award of Merit.

The Association reaches out to others in the Phi Theta Kappa community- aiding them in their success with 5-Star goals. Members create programs, invite speakers, and help chapters by providing support to help with their programs- creating success for all involved. The Association sponsors a “Texas Trip” for members from Kansas, primarily from Coffeyville, Kansas. Speakers and activities, such as a Health Retreat, based on the Honors Study Topic and fellowship are studied during this event. The Association sponsors workshops for Districts 2 and 3 regarding the 5-Star program, comprehensive hallmark programs, awards, chronological lists, transferring to the University, scholarships, and presentations at orientations and inductions regarding benefits of membership in our prestigious society. The Association also sponsors conferences throughout the Texas, Oklahoma/Arkansas, and Kansas regions to cut costs for members in attendance.

Campus participation flourishes due to Association members. “No other organization at the University does as much for their school and community as the Pi of Texas Alumni Association” says University President, Dr. Keith McFarland. On campus, members participate in intramural activities; work with service organizations; service projects and fundraising efforts with the Honors Service Learning class; and with other organizations on special projects throughout the campus. Members volunteer countless hours with local Boys and Girls Clubs teaching about health topics and related issues, Northeast Texas Children’s Museum, the

American Cancer Society and Relay for Life, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, children's hospitals throughout North Texas, Hunt County food bank, providing services to the local libraries, and recruiting efforts of the University.

The students and University have made a commitment to each other. Scholarship amounts have been increased as has the number of scholarships available. Association members aid area chapters with scholarship search workshops on maneuvering through the e-scholarship directory and websites insuring scholarship success for all transferring students.

Association members have learned a great deal this past year through the Honors Study Topic, community service, and commitment to the University. They have balanced school and personal time with service to all around them. From the beginning to what it is today, the Pi of Texas Alumni Association is growing to new heights and accomplishments every day.