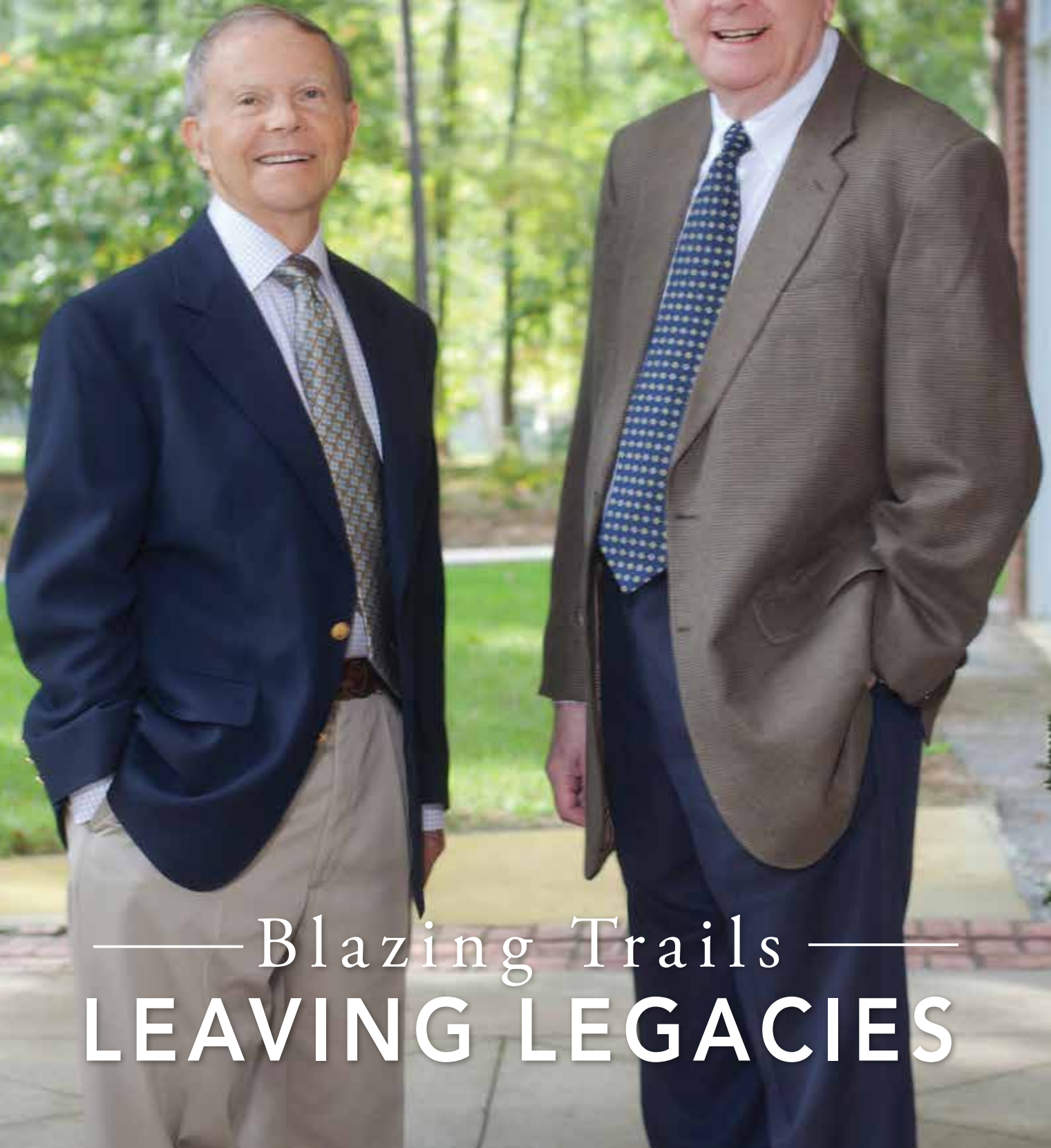


PHI THETA KAPPA FOUNDATION Visionary

2015 EDITION



— Blazing Trails —
LEAVING LEGACIES



OUR MISSION

The mission of the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation is to secure the financial resources to support the values, vision and priorities of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

CASE FOR SUPPORT

The Phi Theta Kappa Foundation provides the resources for unique and innovative programs that encourage, engage and motivate individuals to complete their degrees, fulfill their dreams and become leaders in our society.

VISIONARY 2015

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On the Cover: Robert Blank and Gayle Wyatt

PHI THETA KAPPA MISSION STATEMENT

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.



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FOREWORD

Dr. Rod A. Risley



I have often written about Phi Theta Kappa's celebrated history, recognizing the remarkable vision and courage of those who led this organization before us. To borrow a phrase from Sir Isaac Newton, we truly stand on the shoulders of giants. These giants preceded us in time but shared a lofty vision of what the organization could and should become.

As Phi Theta Kappa's Centennial nears in 2018, it is fitting to take a look back at the visionary spirit of those who shaped this organization. They blazed the paths leading Phi Theta Kappa to what it is today — the oldest, most prestigious and most innovative

honor society serving two-year colleges worldwide. This issue of *Visionary* tells some of their stories and highlights how their vision and contributions have changed lives for nearly 100 years.

We owe an amazing debt of gratitude to people such as:

- Former Associate Director Gayle Wyatt and long-time advisor, regional coordinator and board member Robert Blank, who developed and coordinated Phi Theta Kappa's highly acclaimed Honors Institute.
- Founding Executive Director of the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Dr. Matthew Quinn, who helped establish the largest community college transfer scholarship program in the nation — in 2014, 71 Phi Theta Kappa members were among the 85 scholarship winners and will have the opportunity to receive up to \$10 million total to complete baccalaureate and graduate degrees.
- The late Dr. Jack Guistwhite, who pioneered the development of transfer scholarships for Phi Theta Kappa members.
- Former and current chapter advisors, who often give more than their time to make Phi Theta Kappa a success and inspire others, such as the late Joanie Keller.

As you read the stories of these legendary leaders, past and present, I know you will be inspired by their legacies and will stand with us on their shoulders to build an even brighter future for Phi Theta Kappa.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rod A. Risley".

ROD A. RISLEY, PH.D.

Executive Director and CEO

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

LETTER FROM THE FOUNDATION CEO

Dr. Nancy L. Rieves



DEAR FRIENDS,

As we prepare to celebrate Phi Theta Kappa's 100th birthday, this issue of *Visionary* looks at some of the individuals who built a firm foundation for Phi Theta Kappa. Our history is rich, but so are our present and our future, thanks to the generosity of so many of you.

In keeping with the theme of our Honors in Action topic, *Frontiers and the Spirit of Exploration*, we look at the trailblazers who have made today's Phi Theta Kappa possible for so many deserving community college students.

We'll look at how some of our scholars, like Joseph Burch and Elizabeth Ross, are giving back.

We'll talk with former International President Kevin Braden about what "paying it forward" means to him. As an alumnus, he has modeled servant leadership.

We know that faculty success translates to student success, which is what we are all about. In that spirit, we'll celebrate with some inspirational advisors such as Steve Schroeder, who has remembered Phi Theta Kappa in his estate plans, and Dr. John Modschiedler, who has endowed an Honors Institute lecture.

And finally, we'll recognize and celebrate those supporting the Society with gifts to the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation. Without supporters, none of this would be possible.

Within these articles you will see so many connections — ways advisors, college presidents, alumni and members have inspired each other. We are all connected through our common experiences and our shared desire to see Phi Theta Kappa flourish into the next century.

So as you read through these pages, we encourage you to think about how you might become the next Phi Theta Kappa pioneer.

To consider adding Phi Theta Kappa to your estate plans as Schroeder and Braden have done, contact me at nancy.rieves@ptk.org, 601.984.3537, or Karri Chaney at karri.chaney@ptk.org, 601.987.5507.

While we celebrate our past, we look hopefully toward the future and the challenges and triumphs it will bring. Thank you for being a part of this with us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy L. Rieves". The script is fluid and cursive.

NANCY L. RIEVES, ED.D.

CEO

Phi Theta Kappa Foundation

PHI THETA KAPPA FOUNDATION

Board of Trustees

The Phi Theta Kappa Foundation provides the resources for unique and innovative programs that encourage, engage and motivate individuals to complete their degrees, fulfill their dreams and become leaders in our society.



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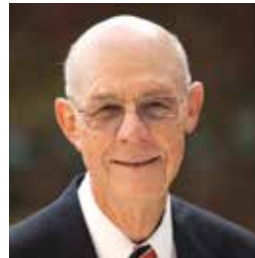
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ONE WOMAN'S IMPACT OF EXCELLENCE

in the Carolinas Region

MANY PEOPLE THINK ABOUT THE IMPACT THEIR LIVES WILL MAKE ON OTHERS AFTER THEY'RE GONE.

But in Joanie Keller's case, her spirit still lives throughout Phi Theta Kappa's Carolinas Region and well beyond, and her presence can be felt far and wide in the enthusiasm of members, in the passion of advisors and in the dedication of the region's current leaders.

Keller passed away on November 4, 2014, after a battle with cancer.

Keller, who was serving as an adjunct professor at Trident Technical College in South Carolina at the time of her death, was presented with the Advisor Emeritus and Board of Directors Alumni Achievement Awards during NerdNation 2014, Phi Theta Kappa's annual convention, and served as keynote speaker during the Alumni Gratitude Banquet.



.....
DR. ROD RISLEY with **JOANIE KELLER**
as she received the Advisor Emeritus Award
at NerdNation 2014
.....



CHRIS SOLOMON

Keller was inducted into the Alpha Epsilon Omicron Chapter of Trident Technical College on April 1, 1981. She served as a chapter advisor and alumni advisor, and she was Regional Coordinator of the Carolinas Region from 1991 to 2001, when she was named Regional Coordinator Emeritus.

“She truly changed the lives of hundreds of students,” said fellow Alpha Epsilon Omicron advisor and long-time friend Chris Solomon. “Her impact on this earth spans so much further than North and South Carolina.

“From shore to shore, there are individuals who are making a difference in their communities all because Joanie Keller insisted they join her in exploring new horizons through Phi Theta Kappa.”

Carolinas Regional Coordinator John Sharpe said that, as an alumna, Keller continually gave back to the chapters and the region with the same passion she displayed for Phi Theta Kappa as a member, chapter advisor and regional coordinator.

“She was a friend and mentor to everyone in Phi Theta Kappa and a consummate servant leader, encouraging others to strive

for more and helping them in their quest to succeed,” he said. Keller was also a charter member of the Carolinas Region Alumni Association and the chapter-based Gamma of South Carolina Alumni Association.

“Joanie was an inspiration to members of the Carolinas Region,” said former national officer and Associate Regional Coordinator Beth Carraway. “This region wouldn’t be the same without her influence over the years.”

Under Keller’s leadership the Alpha Epsilon Omicron Chapter developed a reputation for excellence, from producing International Officers and candidates to being perennially among the top chapters in Hallmark Awards. She was recognized as a Mosal Scholar and Distinguished Advisor and served as both a Faculty Scholar and a certified instructor in Phi Theta Kappa’s Leadership Development Studies Program.

According to Solomon, Keller continued to be actively involved as a leader and mentor for the members, alumni and advisors in the Carolinas Region up until her death. She was the first to encourage eligible students to accept their membership invitations to Phi Theta Kappa and was frequently seen providing support and advice to members and alumni.

Solomon herself became a member of Phi Theta Kappa while Keller was at the helm as lead advisor of Alpha Epsilon Omicron.

“I first learned about Phi Theta Kappa as a student at Trident Technical College while taking a class from Joanie,” she said. “I went to her for some advice about classes, and she started

pestering me about joining. She was relentless to say the least!”

Solomon would go on to complete her education, teach business and finance at Trident Technical College and take the reins of the Alpha Epsilon Omicron Chapter. She describes her first days as an advisor as “scary.”

“I had obviously watched Joanie in action for many years and really felt like I



JOANIE KELLER with DR. JO MARSHALL
at NerdNation 2014

had impossible shoes to fill,” Solomon said. “This chapter had a long history of excellence, and I just knew I could not let everyone down who had worked so very hard to get it this far.”

And she didn’t let the chapter down — Alpha Epsilon Omicron has continued to garner awards, run candidates for International Office and maintain its status as a Five Star chapter. In addition, Solomon went on to pursue and be selected for several positions of leadership among Phi Theta Kappa advisors, including election as an Association of Chapter Advisors officer, selection as a Faculty Scholar and appointment to the Honors Program Council. Keller pushed her every step of the way.

“She pushed when I didn’t think I could do it anymore,” Solomon said. “She encouraged me to take that next step, not only as a student, but even as an advisor.”

And Solomon wasn’t the only person Keller pushed; in fact, Phi Theta Kappa was also a family affair. Her niece, Lisa York, an English/cultural studies professor at Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College in North Carolina, began serving as a Phi Theta Kappa advisor 14 years ago and was recently selected to serve on the Honors Program Council as well.

“When I lost my first husband in a car accident, my aunt was the first person I wanted to see because I was aware of the tremendous loss she had already experienced in her life and her unimaginable ability to survive it,” York said of Keller. “She was my lifeline, and she made another one for me by introducing me to Phi Theta Kappa. I moved back to Charleston, started graduate school, and began teaching at Trident Tech. The membership took me in, and I was inspired by all of the hardships so many students had experienced and overcome.”



LISA YORK

York became so active with the chapter that she became an honorary member.

“I am so proud of my niece Lisa York and so proud of her chapter, which was second runner-up to Most Distinguished Chapter,” Keller told guests at the NerdNation 2014 Gratitude Banquet.

“I dragged her into Phi Theta Kappa, and to know that she is making a difference and that it is truly benefitting her more than she realizes is a blessing.”

**THE HUGS, THE FELLOWSHIP
of Phi Theta Kappa made me
feel as if I had another family.
I learned as I helped to empower
others (that) I grew with them.**

— Joanie Keller

“She not only believed in the four hallmarks of Phi Theta Kappa, she lived the four hallmarks of Phi Theta Kappa,” Solomon said of Keller. “She was truly the wind beneath the wings of hundreds of students.”

Upon being notified that she was the recipient of the 2014 Board of Directors Alumni Achievement Award, Keller said she was overwhelmed and humbled.

“The network I built, all the professional development, which led to my personal growth — being involved in Phi Theta Kappa is an amazing journey,” she said. “And then getting the students involved and watching them grow — I was always telling them to be all that you can be, and Phi Theta Kappa was an amazing conduit in making this happen.”

During her acceptance speech given at the 2014 Alumni Gratitude Banquet, Keller donned a yellow and blue Mohawk-style wig — a gift presented to her at a North Carolina chapter induction ceremony. She told the crowd how a positive attitude and sense of humor had helped her persevere through a divorce, the loss of a husband and two children, and fighting multiple myeloma, a cancer of the bone marrow.

“The hugs, the fellowship of Phi Theta Kappa made me feel as if I had another family,” Keller said. “I learned as I helped to empower others (that) I grew with them.” ♦

Memorials may be made to support the Phi Theta Kappa Carolinas Region Joan Keller Scholarship Fund through the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation. Gifts may be made online via the secure Foundation website, ptkfoundation.org; by mail to the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation at P.O. Box 13729, Jackson, MS 39236-3729; or by contacting Philanthropy Coordinator Karri Chaney at karri.chaney@ptk.org or 601.987.5507.



ROBERT BLANK and GAYLE WYATT
at the Center for Excellence

THE CROWN JEWEL — of Legacies —

PHI THETA KAPPA'S RICH HISTORY IS FULL OF INNOVATORS who developed groundbreaking programming to recognize, support and develop two-year college students. But only two can be credited with creating one of the Society's most beloved events — Honors Institute. The pair responsible for what has become the crown jewel of its honors programming? Gayle Wyatt and Robert Blank.

Combined, their experience with Phi Theta Kappa spans half a century. For Wyatt, it was two decades as Associate Director; for Blank, it was nearly 30 years as an advisor, a regional coordinator, a board member and Honors Institute coordinator.

"They were true visionaries," said Phi Theta Kappa Executive Director and CEO Dr. Rod Risley. "In the founding of Honors Institute, they laid the groundwork for an honors experience that has remained relevant nearly 50 years later. There's nothing else like it for two-year college students."

Wyatt joined the English faculty at Navarro College in Texas in 1960, where he first heard of Phi Theta Kappa through its very active Zeta Omicron Chapter. He would later become an

honorary member of that chapter and serve as an academic dean at the school.

It was through the chapter's advisors — two of Wyatt's best friends on the faculty — that he met Phi Theta Kappa's first Executive Director, Dr. Margaret Mosal. In the mid-1960s the Society was seeking an Associate Director. Wyatt's friend, chapter advisor Cecil Williams, thought Wyatt would be a good fit for the position. He contacted Mosal on Wyatt's behalf, and in 1967 Wyatt found himself moving to Canton, Mississippi, to join the national office.

His primary responsibility was the Honors Program, so he was charged with developing an honors topic, researching it,

Mississippi advisor **EMMIE ELLEN WADE**,
1969-1970 National President **TOM LASTER**
and **BLANK** planning the Marymount Institute



WYATT, DR. MARGARET MOSAL, BLANK and
former National Officer and Headquarters staff member
RUBEN ARMIÑANA at the Marymount Institute

and preparing it for use by the chapters. With that came planning speakers for the then-National Convention and later Honors Institute.

“(The honors topic) gave the chapters a focus,” Wyatt said. “They were somewhat at loose ends trying to pursue the (then) three goals of Phi Theta Kappa, scholarship, leadership and service, but they needed suggestions of how they might make these things happen on their campus.

“I think it was a good thing for them. Necessary, even.”

The birth of Honors Institute occurred in the most unlikely of places — on a cross-country train ride Wyatt and Mosal were taking to the then-American Association of Junior Colleges National Convention in San Francisco, California, in 1967. Mosal was famous for never flying, and so the pair had three days to watch the landscape blur past and discuss the future of the organization. She wanted to do something big for the Society’s 50th anniversary the following year.

Wyatt described to Mosal the format of a school he’d attended in Stratford-upon-Avon in England. She liked the idea, and Honors Institute was born. Then, they had to sell it.

"I remember getting in my car and visiting each chapter in Alabama and Georgia and meeting with the college presidents and the advisors of the chapters and even with the members themselves and telling them what we had in mind," he said.

The first Honors Institute was held in 1968 at Endicott College in Beverly, Massachusetts. That's also the year Robert Blank first served as a workshop leader at the National Convention. He had met Mosal and Wyatt the previous year at a regional convention in New York — his second year as advisor to the chapter at the State University of New York in Farmingdale.

Before joining Farmingdale, Blank taught at Elmont Memorial High School on Long Island in New York and was involved with the National Honor Society. His background with honor students served him well once he moved to the two-year college, and his involvement with Phi Theta Kappa progressed quickly. He began as chapter advisor in 1965.

Following his presentation at the 1968 National Convention, Blank was asked to become the New England/Middle States Regional Coordinator. Then, at the 1969 National Convention, he was elected to Phi Theta Kappa's Board of Directors. He held his seat on the board for 16 years and served as chair for six — including the year Risley was named the Society's second Executive Director.

"All of this happened between 1968 and 1969," he said. "Margaret Mosal had a way of recognizing talent. She had a way of getting people to do things, and she always gave me tremendous support."

Blank's first Honors Institute was in 1969 at Marymount College in Virginia. Wyatt had written an outline of the program, and Blank began to plan the program. This was the springboard into his role as Honors Institute Coordinator.

He was charged with selecting speakers, and among the presenters he landed in that initial year was Shirley Chisholm, the first African-American Congresswoman, elected in 1968. He was also instrumental in setting up the seminar groups, a key piece of Honors Institute.

"Breakout groups, I thought, were very effective," he said. "I just took what I had experienced in my own academic career and tried it out here.

"You get these diverse opinions, and that's a great learning experience. That's part of education."

Wyatt and Blank would continue to work together for the next 20 years planning Honors Institutes. Today, both have endowed lectures for the event, which has changed very little in its 46 years, aside from attendance: the first Honors Institute welcomed 123 attendees; in 2014, 559 members and advisors attended.

"I think there is one story in my awareness that could account at least in part for that appeal," Wyatt said, recalling his turn as a seminar group leader at the 1972 institute. "During the last meeting, I said to the group, 'What do you think you'll take away from the institute experience?' And I have never forgotten the response of a young man from the Middle Atlantic States.

"He said, 'I'm sure there will be dark days ahead in my life; but when those days inevitably come for me, I'm going to take great comfort in knowing that out there somewhere there are at least 150 other persons who feel essentially the same way I do about what things really matter in this life.' Is that not a good answer?"

PHI THETA KAPPA ENABLED
the four-year colleges to recognize
that here we have built-in talent.
It played a very important role
in giving the two-year college
student recognition and showing
the four-year college that a two-
year student has great potential.

— *Robert Blank*

Blank attended his last Honors Institute in 1993. His nearly 30 years as an educator and a chapter advisor saw Honors Institute — and Phi Theta Kappa as a whole — endure while the world of higher education and its students evolved.

"(Phi Theta Kappa) enabled the four-year colleges to recognize that here we have built-in talent," he said. "It played a very important role in giving the two-year college student recognition and showing the four-year college that a two-year student has great potential.

"Phi Theta Kappa gives people an opportunity in the early years of their college career to be recognized as scholars, and that's important."

Wyatt too has watched as Phi Theta Kappa reacted to a changing world. When he first joined the Headquarters staff, he was one of three employees. Today, there are more than 80 serving a worldwide membership that's 3 million strong.

"It really borders on the miraculous, when you look at it," he said. "But I think it answered a need. I think people were hungry for the kinds of things that such an organization had to offer.

"We developed the Phi Theta Kappa hug. People understood that they really were cared about. I think so often who we are as people is so much more important than what we do." ❖

HOW ONE LETTER CHANGED EVERYTHING



BETH CARRAWAY

In 1981 Beth Carraway was a newly inducted Phi Theta Kappa member who'd accepted her invitation to membership in the Alpha Beta Kappa Chapter at Delaware Technical and Community College simply because, in high school, her grades weren't good enough to get her into the National Honor Society.

But in no time at all, she was an active and engaged

member. She remained an active alumna, and today she's an advisor to the Alpha Nu Sigma Chapter at Horry Georgetown Technical College in South Carolina and an Associate Regional Coordinator to the Carolinas Region.

What prompted her engagement in the Society? In part, a letter from Robert Blank.

Carraway met Blank, then New England/Middle States Regional Coordinator, when she volunteered to escort him and some of his chapter members from the train station to the regional meeting her chapter was hosting in the fall of 1981.

"And because of me, they missed their train home," Carraway said with a laugh. "So I stayed with them and entertained them until the next train came. And I'm sure I thought we (Blank and I) were friends after that. I felt like we connected."

It was this connection that led Carraway to write Blank a letter and seek his opinion on her decision to run for national office. She'd only agreed to run "for fun — I never thought I would win." But then, she started to get nervous.

Blank's return letter to Carraway shifted her view about her candidacy — and about so much more.

"I began to take it seriously," she said. "His letter really focused things for me in terms of

the campaign. It was really forward-thinking, and it made me feel like I could really do this."

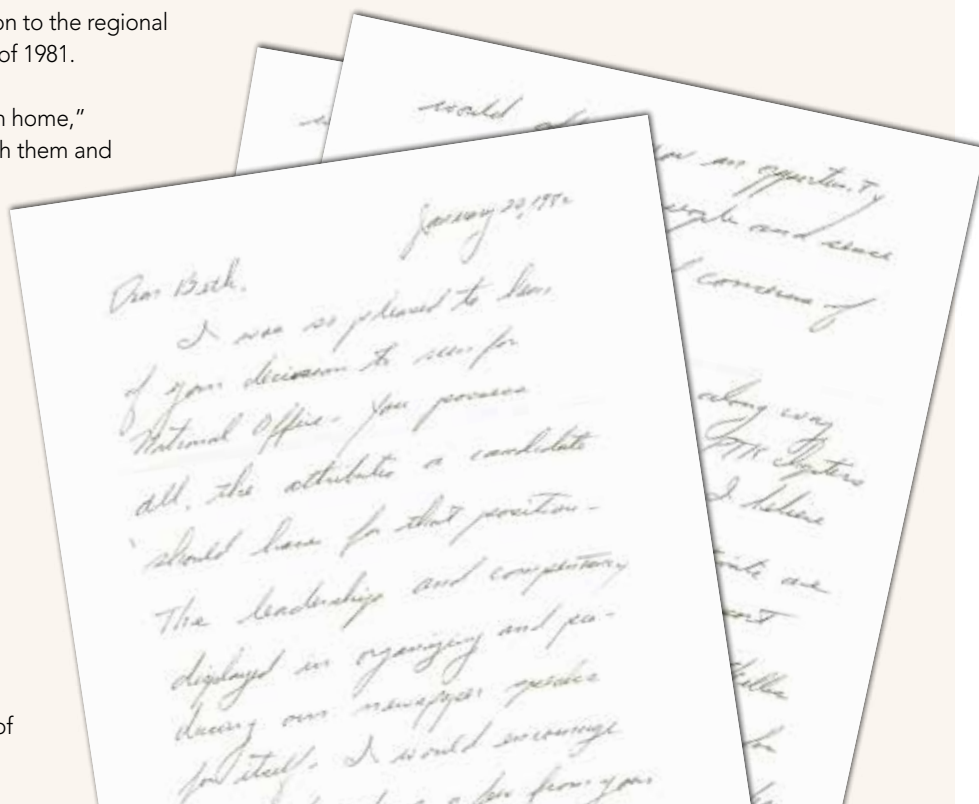
Carraway was elected in 1982 as the New England/Middle States Vice President.

"I would have still run I think, but I wouldn't have had any confidence," she said. "And that's what he did. It wasn't something he did directly, but I could see what Phi Theta Kappa had to offer and that there were supportive people there to help you."

Blank continued to give Carraway honest feedback and support on her ideas and initiatives during her tenure as a national officer. Blank, along with her chapter advisors and others she met, could see her potential, and they offered her the encouragement she needed to fulfill it.

"There's no way I would have gone on to graduate school and become a teacher if not for these people," she said. "I wouldn't have had the confidence."

"They really gave me a sense of belonging."



.....

STEVE SCHROEDER, co-advisor
of the Phi Beta Chapter at the College
of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, Illinois

.....

— Finding His Family — PROTECTING ITS FUTURE

STEVE SCHROEDER TENDS TO FACE HIS DAYS WITH A CERTAIN DEGREE OF OPTIMISM.

But in early 2013, the co-advisor of the Phi Beta Chapter at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, faced a truly difficult time that changed how he felt about his future.

“I lost both of my parents — they died within five days of each other,” he said. “That experience really opened my eyes to the impact planning for the future can have.”

Schroeder’s parents had left solid, detailed plans for their final wishes, which he said made his life much easier during those dark days. This, paired with conversations with a fellow advisor and friend from Mississippi — Dr. Sarah Nichols, who had recently designated a portion of her estate as a gift to Phi Theta Kappa — led him to start thinking about his own legacy.

“Phi Theta Kappa has been such a strong family of support for me,” he said. “I can only hope to return that support and give back to those folks who supported me so they might have it easier in the future.”

Schroeder worked with the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation to become a member of the Athena Society, which recognizes those who have made an estate commitment or a deferred gift to the Foundation to benefit Phi Theta Kappa. Gifts may be designated to support a specific area or program within the Society or may be designated to the Foundation in general.

“What’s great about the Athena Society is that I can’t give a lot right now, but I know that one day, when my time comes, I’ll have money that I can donate,” he said.



DR. JOHN MODSCHIEDLER

Schroeder has been an active Phi Theta Kappa advisor since 2001, when he replaced long-time advisor Dr. John Modschiedler upon his retirement from the chapter. But his service to the Society began years earlier, in an unofficial capacity.

Modschiedler, who had been chapter advisor since 1984, needed some

help. Shannon Hernandez had joined him as a co-advisor, but in 1999 she was on maternity leave. A regional convention loomed, and Modschiedler needed someone to help him chaperone the trip. He turned to Schroeder.

“Steve was serving as the sponsor of the speech team, so he seemed to really know how to work with students,” Modschiedler said. “His personality is so gregarious; you can’t help but be drawn to him.”

Schroeder went with the chapter to the regional convention and was “hooked from moment one.” As the professor of speech communication, he continued to work with the chapter to offer guidance on campaign speeches and other projects as needed. When Modschiedler announced his plans to step down from the chapter, Schroeder gladly accepted the request to jump in.

“Hands down it was the hallmarks and how much Phi Theta Kappa really made an effort to integrate all four of them in all

they did,” he said. “You get the leadership exposure, but you also get the service aspect and the fellowship aspect and the scholarship part.”

Schroeder has gone on to serve Phi Theta Kappa in a range of positions. He served on the Honors Program Council for four years, was a Faculty Scholar for six, and is now secretary of the Association of Chapter Advisors. His love for Phi Theta Kappa was in part inspired by his relationship with Modschiedler, who early in his tenure as chapter advisor grew the Phi Beta Chapter to be one of the Society’s largest.

“The enthusiasm and love John has for Phi Theta Kappa was passed on to me,” Schroeder said. “He was also a great source of history. John has been contributing significantly to Phi Theta Kappa for years.”

Modschiedler was a certified instructor of Phi Theta Kappa’s Leadership Development course, which he team-taught with then-college president Dr. Michael Murphy. He is credited with calling Honors Institute “the crown jewel of Phi Theta Kappa’s Honors Program” and has endowed a lecture during the event.

“I don’t know of any better academic experience you could put together than Honors Institute,” Modschiedler said. “You hear a lecture, and then you immediately get to discuss it. It’s just outstanding. One of my favorite things in the world is to have a great conversation.”

Modschiedler and Schroeder no doubt had many great conversations through their years working together. The pair team-taught honors seminar courses on Ethics, Biomedical Ethics and Business Ethics before Modschiedler retired in 2007.

“Through my time teaching with John in the honors seminar, I’d gained insights into Phi Theta Kappa, and into what an amazing educator John is,” Schroeder said. “I still use the skills I learned from him in my classroom to this day.”

Ultimately for Schroeder, Phi Theta Kappa has been about forming friendships, like his with Modschiedler. He unabashedly says that his Society colleagues have been a true support system to him — especially in those darkest of days two years ago — and that some of his fellow advisors, like

Nichols, are some of his best friends. Those relationships, those people, are the reasons he gives back.

“I have no children of my own to safeguard for the future, so if I can help safeguard the future of Phi Theta Kappa, that makes me feel a lot better as a person,” he said. “The bottom line is that you want to protect your family, and Phi Theta Kappa is my family.” ♦

THE BOTTOM LINE
is that you want to
protect your family,
and Phi Theta Kappa
is my family.

— *Steve Schroeder*

A portrait of Elizabeth Ross, a woman with long brown hair, wearing a dark blue blazer over a blue and white patterned top. She is standing in front of a stone wall with columns.

.....

ELIZABETH ROSS, Phi Theta Kappa
alumna and Jack Kent Cooke Scholar

.....

THE JOURNEY TO GIVING BACK

—— Bumps and All

ELIZABETH ROSS KNOWS ALL TOO WELL

the adage coined by poet Robert Burns, “The best laid plans of mice and men often go astray.” Always a good student, Ross dreamed of attending college following high school graduation. With a highly competitive ROTC scholarship and congressional nominations to three renowned military academies, Ross’s path toward a successful future seemed set.

Her discovery, shortly after graduation, that she was pregnant detoured those plans. No longer a student aspiring to a future in military leadership, Ross embraced her new roles of wife and mother. She continued working her high school job at IHOP and pursued management opportunities there. A second child arrived and then divorce.



ELIZABETH ROSS and advisor JANE HONEYCUTT
celebrate the news of Ross's selection as a Jack Kent Cooke
Foundation Scholar

As she started over, Ross found her educational desires still burning. She enrolled in the local university and began moving again toward her educational goal. Then, she encountered another bump in the road. This one threatened to derail her journey permanently.

She became ill and was hospitalized, causing her to miss finals. Overcome by this undiagnosed illness, she did not make up her final exams and, instead, left the university with failing grades.

For the next year, she struggled with illness, searching for the cause. By the time she was diagnosed with a rare disease affecting the heart and large arteries, the disease was well advanced.

"I was forced to leave my job and apply for disability, and I spent the next two years fighting to stay alive," Ross said.

Two years later, Ross won the battle and achieved remission. But as she recalls, she lost a lot too. "I had lost who I was, I was depressed, and I needed something to help me become me again."

Little did she know at the time, but that "something" for which she searched would spring from her enrollment at Northeast State Community College in Tennessee. Soon, that good student she once knew reemerged.

"I started to feel better about myself, and the new activity and attitude helped me feel better physically," she said.

Ross began to uncover what she was missing when she enrolled in a Women's Studies class taught by Honors Program

Coordinator and Phi Theta Kappa advisor Jane Honeycutt. Almost instantly a connection sparked between the two. Thanks to the encouragement and not-so-subtle nudges she received from Honeycutt and others at Northeast State, the confidence Ross had lost along her journey began to return.

At Honeycutt's prompting, Ross joined the Honors Program and not only accepted membership in Phi Theta Kappa but also ran for and won an officer position.

"I was lost when I enrolled at Northeast State, and it took a group of very special people to invest their valuable time in me before I found myself again," she said. "I needed people to believe in me until I could believe in myself."

And that's just what Honeycutt did. "I just wanted to give her some confidence back," said Honeycutt. "She has the determination to do well at so many things; it has been a pleasure to see her find herself."

Even with the support she found, Ross could still see limitations. As a non-traditional, first-generation college student, attending an Ivy League school seemed out of reach. Again, Ross received the push she needed to steer past the bumps in the road.

She applied for and received the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship – \$30,000 per year to complete her baccalaureate degree and the promise of more for graduate school. From Columbia University, she also received a \$15,000 Joey O'Loughlin Scholarship. Both awards allow Ross to attend Columbia virtually debt free.

Today Ross is pursuing a bachelor's degree in African-American Studies thanks, in part, to people like Phi Theta Kappa advisor Jane Honeycutt who believed in her and helped her believe in herself.


Although she foresees a career in academia as a vehicle for changing students' stories much the way Honeycutt and others changed hers, she's not waiting for that day to come. She's already begun by sharing her story and mentoring students facing similar challenges along life's path.

"I believe that hearing from someone who was in their shoes just a few years ago can really make a difference when they are deciding to apply for that competitive scholarship or whether or not they should apply to their dream school," Ross said. "I want other community college students to know that it is possible."

"One can receive a great education at a community college that will serve as a strong foundation for success at a four-year university, even when that university is one of the top universities in the world!" ♦

I want other
community college
students to know that
IT IS POSSIBLE.

— *Elizabeth Ross*

A portrait of Dr. Matthew Quinn, an older man with white hair and glasses, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a red tie with a blue and white pattern. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with trees and foliage.

.....
DR. MATTHEW QUINN, Phi Theta Kappa
Foundation Board of Trustees Chair and Jack Kent
Cooke Foundation Executive Director Emeritus
.....

———— Together ————
WE ACCOMPLISH MORE

JESUIT MINISTRY IN THE PHILIPPINES, positions in advertising and public relations, work in higher education including as a college president; Dr. Matthew Quinn's career path has been far from boring. His most recent adventure began in the fall of 1999 with an opportunity that would become a game changer for many outstanding community college students with financial need.

While serving as president of a college in Montana, Quinn received a call from a colleague with news of the establishment of a new foundation and its search for an executive director. The foundation was being created through the will of prominent businessman, sportsman and philanthropist Jack Kent Cooke.



2014 JACK KENT COOKE SCHOLARS

A self-made billionaire, Cooke overcame financial obstacles to achieve tremendous success. When he died in 1997, Cooke left the bulk of his fortune to establish a foundation dedicated to supporting individuals of exceptional promise — those who work hard, stay focused and defy the stereotype that poverty precludes high achievement.

Quinn's colleague prodded him to submit his name for consideration. Even though the initial timing of the selection process was not ideal — Quinn was in the middle of an academic year — he submitted his application.

By the summer of 2000, the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation was taking its first steps with Quinn at the helm as its founding executive director.

When structuring how the foundation would fulfill its mission, Quinn turned to senior administrators at several institutions and organizations to identify where the greatest need and the highest potential for good existed.

"In a discussion with deans and directors at Johns Hopkins University, an administrator mentioned that some of his best students were transfers from two-year schools who performed as well as, and often better than, the native students," he said.

mutually beneficial partnership enabling both organizations to better serve two-year college honor students who possessed exceptional potential but faced financial barriers to achieving their educational goals.

"It quickly became apparent that Phi Theta Kappa knew what the best routes were to find competent, capable and needy community college students," said Quinn. "When you are starting out, you need a partner who is known, who has high standards and who has a reputation for quality work. Phi Theta Kappa had all of that.

"The partnership with Phi Theta Kappa allowed us to advance our programs far beyond what we would have been able to do on our own."

Those pioneering efforts resulted in a collection of programs that today provide resources to develop the talents of traditionally underserved students from elementary school through graduate school.

Among the programs is the Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship Program. In 2014, the foundation increased this award from \$30,000 to \$40,000 annually per scholar. Approximately 85 students are selected each year, making the nation's top colleges and universities, including Ivy Leagues, accessible

THE PARTNERSHIP
with Phi Theta Kappa
allowed us to advance our
programs far beyond what
we would have been able
to do on our own.

— *Dr. Matthew Quinn*

to community college students. Historically the majority of recipients have also been Phi Theta Kappa members.

In 2006, Quinn was given the opportunity to return the support offered by Phi Theta Kappa as the Society sought to establish a foundation to serve as its fundraising arm. Quinn joined the efforts as a board trustee and has served as chair of the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation's Board of Trustees from its beginning. He plans to retire from this post this year.

Foundation CEO Dr. Nancy Rieves credits much of the foundation's growth to Quinn's guidance.

"We have been so fortunate to have Matt's guidance and support since the Foundation's inception," Rieves said. "He has embraced Phi Theta Kappa and our mission. As he retires, he leaves us with a legacy that will continue to benefit deserving scholars for years to come."

The Phi Theta Kappa Foundation was established in 2006 with approximately \$150,000. Under Quinn's leadership, the funds

grew to exceed \$6 million in the eight years that followed. Since its establishment, the resources generated by the Foundation have allowed the Society to expand existing scholarship programs and establish new ones. Among those added were the Hites Transfer Scholarship awarding \$75,000 annually, the Frank Lanza Memorial Scholarship awarding \$50,000 annually; and the Oberndorf Lifeline to Completion Scholarship awarding \$20,000 annually.

To potential benefactors of Phi Theta Kappa, Quinn offers the same concept of partnership.

"No one person can do it all, but it all can be done if we all pitch in," he said. "As Phi Theta Kappa approaches its centenary, the moment will serve to celebrate and acknowledge its role in preparing leaders for our country, our communities and our corporations.

"By contributing to the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation, people will ensure that this tradition of achievement and opportunity will continue." ♦



STEPHANI CALDERON

ANOTHER STORY CHANGED

scholars and an energetic advisor drew her in to experience all that membership could offer.

"The most impactful part of joining Phi Theta Kappa has been my advisor Dr. Melissa Weinbrenner. Without her, I couldn't have become so successful. I never imagined a professor could change a student's life so much. The beauty of this is that I know she is not the only Phi Theta Kappa advisor who exhibits these qualities. I've never heard anyone brag so much about professors like Phi Theta Kappans do about their advisors."

The community of support she found with Phi Theta Kappa has expanded to now include the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation.

"Winning the Jack Kent Cooke scholarship means much more than a full ride to a four-year university. The scholarship to me is a continuation of the support and mentorships I received with Phi Theta Kappa. I have the greatest connection with my 'Cookie Cousins,' and they never fail to surprise me with their accomplishments like having dinner with the President of the United States, opening up their own non-profit organizations, and helping open libraries for developing nations. I'm in a world of constant motivation and inspiration, and this by far has been the most important factor in continuing on a successful college career path."

MAJOR: *International business*

LONG-TERM EDUCATIONAL GOAL:

Master's degree in finance or a JD in international corporate law

CAREER GOAL: *Working for a supranational organization or the U.S. Foreign Service*

DREAM COLLEGE SHE'S ATTENDING:

The University of Texas at Austin

Meet Stephani Calderon — a Phi Theta Kappa member and 2013 Jack Kent Cooke Scholar.

Calderon accepted her Phi Theta Kappa membership invitation based on the scholarship opportunities, but the friendly community of

ONE LEGACY

— Leads to Another —

THIS YEAR MARKS THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY of the establishment of the very first transfer scholarship for Phi Theta Kappa members, to Florida Atlantic University. Today, three Society alumni and transfer students find themselves at FAU trying to start a legacy of their own.

“Sometimes transfer students are underrepresented on campus, and not many scholarships are available to them,” said Fernando Varela, a member of the Delta Omicron Chapter at Palm Beach State College-Lake Worth. “The Phi Theta Kappa scholarship shows us that we are an important part of the university and that non-traditional students are capable of achieving great things and going far in life.”

Varela is working with fellow Phi Theta Kappa alumni Taylor Holmes, Gabriella Fontinelle and Vincenzo Giovinazzo to revive the Alpha of Florida Alumni Association at FAU. They are all members of the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, located on FAU’s MacArthur Campus in Jupiter, Florida.



DR. JACK GUISTWHITE

Dr. Jack Guistwhite established the first Phi Theta Kappa transfer scholarship at FAU in 1975, leading the way for other senior institutions in the United States and elsewhere to follow suit. Today, more than \$37 million in transfer scholarships to over 700 senior institutions are available for members.

Taylor Holmes was offered a Phi Theta Kappa transfer scholarship, among other scholarships, to FAU. Holmes was the Vice President of Leadership of the Alpha Gamma Sigma Chapter at Palm Beach State College-Eissey Campus and is President of the Alpha of Florida Alumni Association.

“We are working together to keep the ideals and values of Phi Theta Kappa alive in not only two-year colleges but also in four-year colleges,” she said.

Holmes said the legacy FAU has of being the first to establish transfer scholarships for two-year college students — and Phi Theta Kappa members particularly — shows that transfer students are valued by the college and reassures her that faculty and staff members will be supportive.

And that support is well placed. A recent study of 14,000 Phi Theta Kappa members revealed that they were four times more likely to complete college than their peers. In fact, according to a study by Phi Theta Kappa’s Chief Information and Research Officer Dr. Lynn Tincher-Ladner, 91 percent of Society members complete an associate degree and/or transfer to a four-year college, compared to the national average of 38 percent.

“Four-year colleges that offer scholarships exclusively to Phi Theta Kappa members truly understand academic excellence,” Holmes said. “Phi Theta Kappa members achieve a higher academic level than most students nationwide. This label that students receive is not only due to academics but also from service to the community, developing leadership skills and gaining expertise in communication, and it should be recognized.”

Gabriella Fontinelle, originally from St. Lucia, received a generous scholarship package from FAU when she transferred from Palm Beach State College-Lake Worth. She was an active member of the Delta Omicron Chapter and is Vice President of the Alpha of Florida Alumni Association.

She believes providing financial support for two-year college students is important because, after all, many of these students share the same end goal as those who go straight to a four-year university: they want to complete a baccalaureate degree. It’s an important detail that’s often overlooked.

“I think that support for community college students is a great necessity,” she said. “I do not believe that being a student in a community college makes your drive any lower than a student from a four-year college. We are students who have dreams and want to achieve goals.”

Guistwhite is also the namesake of the Guistwhite Scholar Program, which has awarded more than \$1.5 million in transfer scholarships to Phi Theta Kappa members since its creation in 1991. It was established to honor Guistwhite and his wife, Margaret, in recognition of their years of service to Phi Theta Kappa and their commitment to two-year college transfer students.

Guistwhite served as Florida Alumni Regional Coordinator Emeritus and was an International Honorary Member of Phi Theta Kappa. He was the Community College Relations



Officer at FAU before his retirement in 1982 after 35 years in the Florida State University System. He passed away in 2012 at the age of 94.

“Dr. Guistwhite was a man ahead of his time, a pioneer in preparing for the seamless transition of community college students transferring to the university,” said Phi Theta Kappa Executive Director and CEO Dr. Rod Risley. “He was a true champion who fought for scholarships for our students at every opportunity.


“In addition to the numerous Guistwhite Scholars who benefited from his generosity, untold Phi Theta Kappa alumni may not realize that the transfer scholarships they received or are now using to attend universities can actually be traced back to the actions of Dr. Jack Guistwhite.”

The Guistwhites had no children of their own; instead, they had the more than 400 students who have received

the Guistwhite Transfer Scholarship since its founding. They enjoyed corresponding with the students over the years and hearing about their successes.

“Clearly Dr. Guistwhite identified a true need when he established scholarships for transfer students, and we were more than happy to join his cause and offer our own scholarship in his name to help members transfer to the next level,” said Dr. Nancy Rieves, Phi Theta Kappa Foundation CEO. “This is one of our oldest scholarship programs, but one among several transfer scholarships that can be supported by any donor. Besides the Guistwhite Scholarship, the Hites and GEICO (Bachelor’s) scholarships are also specifically for students planning to transfer to a senior institution.

“The need for a scholarship program like this is great, and the Foundation is proud to continue the charge that Dr. Guistwhite and now others have started to ensure that our members can afford to pursue their educational goals and dreams.” ❖



.....
JOSEPH BURCH, Phi Theta Kappa
alumnus
.....

MEMBER MAKES NO DELAY in Contributing

JOSEPH BURCH TURNED DOWN THREE CONSECUTIVE INVITATIONS to become a member of Phi Theta Kappa while he was a student at Central Piedmont Community College. But once he accepted, he soon found himself in *USA TODAY* as one of 20 of the country's most outstanding community college students.

The spot on the All-USA Community College Academic Team and designation as North Carolina's New Century Scholar earned him \$5,000 in scholarships.

For Burch, accepting that invitation to membership changed his life story.

"There is one word that aptly personifies Phi Theta Kappa's impact on my life story — hope," Burch said. "Phi Theta Kappa has effectuated positive growth in all areas of my life, reenergizing my core beliefs that all things are possible."

As a veteran, a displaced worker and a single father who had faced a number of personal challenges, community college provided a second chance for Burch. He

began to actively volunteer with the Student Veterans of America, TRIO Student Services Support Club, the IGNITE Leadership Program and the Sugar Creek Church Senior Saints Ministry. He also served as a peer mentor.

At the time he was also caring for his disabled son and his aging mother. Burch admitted that other socio-academic obligations led him to place Phi Theta Kappa membership low on his list of priorities until one of the chapter's executive officers convinced him to take another look.

"I'm immensely grateful to Toni Cordell, because it was her ardent belief in Phi Theta Kappa values that truly prompted me to learn more about the Society," Burch said. "Thanks to her persistent encouragement, I became a member of the Phi Theta Kappa family."

Burch found the induction ceremony to be a regal and memorable event and was inspired by the chapter's volunteerism at campus and community events. Although he didn't serve as a chapter or regional officer, he was afforded ample opportunities to participate, and the scholarships he would soon receive would far outweigh the cost of membership in both tangible and intangible ways.

"Receiving the scholarship awards proved to be an invaluable source of encouragement because the recognition validated my academic efforts as well as the sacrifices and contributions of stakeholders who've committed to helping me achieve my academic and career aspirations," Burch said.

The funds helped him with tuition assistance and tools to complete his education, including a tablet, learning software, books and audio-visual presentation equipment. Shortly after receiving the scholarships, Burch was accepted to his top university choices.

"However, a somber reality struck me when I learned that after applying for financial aid packages and scholarships, I still would have incurred an exorbitant annual balance at each of those institutions," he said. "So, I chose to reenroll at my local community college, reevaluate, develop more transfer opportunities and continue to focus my efforts."

Burch hopes to eventually earn an advanced degree in interdisciplinary studies with a concentration in social policy and to someday work as an international social policy consultant.

"I believe the world's greatest needs are exploring, identifying and improving/developing social policies that facilitate constructive growth opportunities for humankind," Burch said.

But for now he is content doing what he can to improve the world of Phi Theta Kappa. Burch recently became the first scholarship recipient to establish a recurring gift to the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation while still at a community college.

"What impresses me most about Phi Theta Kappa versus other college access and success organizations is that the Society's integrity and motives are ethically sound, as opposed to a self-serving agenda," he said. "Our agenda is promoting the socio-academic well-being of scholar-members. Therefore I'm confident that my support is well placed."

But Burch doesn't necessarily see himself as blazing new trails; instead he believes membership in Phi Theta Kappa is a lifelong commitment for everyone in terms of social, financial and advocacy support.

"It is paramount that alumni seize the opportunity to give back and facilitate progressive life-changing outcomes in the lives of countless future members," he said.

THERE IS ONE WORD
that aptly personifies Phi
Theta Kappa's impact on
my life story — hope.

— *Joseph Burch*


When asked about pioneers of Phi Theta Kappa who inspired him, Burch cited the late Dr. David Pierce, former American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) President and Phi Theta Kappa Board member.

"A few months after my induction, while researching Phi Theta Kappa's storied history, I discovered David Pierce," Burch said. "His commitment to pursuing his visions on the behalf of Phi Theta Kappa showed me the power of perseverance and the potential residual effects of a well-placed dream. I'm forever indebted to his benevolence and commitment to pay it forward."

Burch hopes to follow that example and dreams of someday establishing a Phi Theta Kappa endowment to support non-traditional scholars who facilitate progressive social policies.

"Though I've charted a preliminary career track, I realize timing, fortune and unforeseen dynamics will greatly influence my career plans," he said. "Nevertheless, I'm extremely hopeful and confident that eventually my contributions will make a positive difference in the lives of others." ♦

To pay it forward like Burch, go to ptkfoundation.org and establish a secure monthly credit card gift, or contact Associate Director of Institutional Advancement Courtney Taylor at courtney.taylor@ptk.org or 601.984.3577.

A portrait of Kevin Braden, a middle-aged man with light brown hair, wearing a grey blazer over a purple and black striped shirt. He is standing outdoors with a blurred background of trees and a building.

KEVIN BRADEN, Phi Theta
Kappa alumnus and former
International President

— Paying it Forward — BECOMES A WAY OF LIFE

IT'S BEEN 20 YEARS SINCE KEVIN BRADEN WAS ELECTED INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT; but now it's all about "paying it forward," a phrase he prefers to "giving back" because to him it feels more proactive.

"Paying it forward and motivating others to consider doing so is something I take very seriously in my life these days," he said.

Braden's journey with Phi Theta Kappa began with an invitation to membership in the Alpha Rho Eta Chapter in 1993 while he worked and attended classes at Kishwaukee College in Malta, Illinois. His early days of membership were "interesting, challenging and exciting."

"I've always been one to set high goals and encourage others to do the same," Braden said.

One such goal was to boost his chapter from having no stars the year before in the Five Star Chapter Plan. Just 12 months later, his chapter walked away from Phi Theta Kappa's Annual Convention in Anaheim, California, as a Five Star chapter, with Braden elected as International President.

He describes the International Officer Campaign experience as an “endurathon” of non-stop intensity from the moment it began until the swearing-in. He wrote two questions on a piece of paper the day before he flew to Anaheim and sealed them in an envelope with a message to himself on the front, “OPEN JUST BEFORE YOU LEAVE FOR THE HALLMARK AWARDS GALA!” Those two questions were, “Did you give this endeavor your absolute BEST effort?” and “If you could do it over, is there anything you would have done differently?”

“Before I left my hotel for the gala that evening, I was able to look myself in the mirror and honestly answer those two questions, ‘Yes’ and ‘No’, respectively,” Braden said. “I knew in my heart that in being able to honestly answer those questions that way, I would have no regrets no matter the outcome.”

That night Braden became the first person ever chosen by fellow candidates to receive the Orlowski Candidate Scholarship to also be elected to international office.

“I remember sitting in the end main aisle seat of the very last row in the auditorium that night when then-Illinois Regional Coordinator Dr. Mary Anne Player walked out on stage to announce the winner of the Orlowski Candidate Scholarship, which is given each year in memory of the late International Officer Steve Orlowski to the candidate chosen by his or her peers as best representing the spirit of Phi Theta Kappa,” Braden said. “She opened the envelope, hung her head, and said my name. Her lack of enthusiasm was very obvious.”

Player, and now Braden, knew that no winner of the Orlowski Award had ever gone on to be elected to office. But soon, Braden’s now dear friend, 1993-94 International President Elizabeth “Liz” Priore, proved them all wrong when she announced Braden as the new international president.

Braden said he will never forget flying back to Chicago the next day, clutching the Orlowski medallion in one hand and the International President medallion in the other, and thinking the whole flight, “Did that all really happen last night or is this a dream?”

Equally memorable was a card he received from Dr. Ed Homewood, longtime advisor at Chicago’s Harold Washington Community College. It read: “What an incredible feeling it must be to know that in one room last Saturday morning in Anaheim your fellow candidates were choosing you for the Orlowski Award, and at the same time, in a room just next door, your fellow members were choosing you to be their International President.”

“Those words, and memories of that evening, still give me chills,” Braden admitted.

He describes his year of service as one of cultural growth.

Raised in a small town in north central Illinois, his middle class family didn’t have the resources to travel often. In fact, his journey to Anaheim was only the second time he’d flown.

“I grew the most because of all of the amazing people I got to meet from so many different walks of life,” he said. “And not just people from around the country, but from around the world!”

Braden considered all the ways Phi Theta Kappa had changed his life and decided to see how he could pay it forward. He suspected that Player, who had been Orlowski’s chapter advisor, funded the Orlowski Award he had won. When she passed away, Braden was concerned that the award might not continue.

He committed to funding half of the \$1,000 Orlowski Scholarship plus the cost of the medallion and its engraving each year. However, he soon learned that an endowment from Player’s estate would fund the award for years to come. Braden does still pay for the physical award presented each year.

He then decided to direct his annual donation to the newly established West Williamson Fund, an endowment created in memory of the late Phi Theta Kappa staff member and dedicated to helping a new chapter attend their first international convention. Braden is also a member of the Athena Society.

“I think it’s a very valuable way to get a good look at the ‘big picture’ of Phi Theta Kappa and to motivate a new chapter to really kick things off toward their future success,” he said.

Braden doesn’t see himself as a pioneer; instead, he looks to other trailblazers — such as Executive Director and CEO Dr. Rod Risley and Board of Directors Chairman Kip Johnson, who share a passion for Phi Theta Kappa and student success — for inspiration. He feels strongly that alumni, former International Officers and all those close to Phi Theta Kappa have a role to provide financial support and motivation for current members to stay involved.

“I know most of us have very busy ‘post-college days’ lives, but honestly, it doesn’t take much,” Braden said. “Attend an induction ceremony. Share some of your experiences at a chapter meeting. Help with activities. Send your chapter a positive note should you read about something they’ve achieved or accomplished in the newspaper or online. Follow them on Facebook. The message you’re sending by doing so is priceless.”

He thinks the fact that he’s still involved with Phi Theta Kappa after all these years speaks volumes about how great the organization must be.

“I can’t miss the opportunity to credit one of my all-time favorite former National Officers, Matt Jones,” Braden said. “I think of him each and every time I attend any Phi Theta Kappa event, for it was Matt who said, ‘Whoever said you can never go home was never a member of Phi Theta Kappa.’” ♦

MEET THE PHI THETA KAPPA MEMBER

Phi Theta Kappa has inducted **3 million members** since its founding in 1918. These students are the best and brightest at their two-year colleges, and they set high goals for themselves.

Many of our members plan to transfer to a four-year college or university. We also have many who plan to complete an associate degree or certificate and enter the workforce. Regardless of the path they choose, **they're going to be successful**. We can prove it.

91%

of Phi Theta Kappa members complete their associate degrees and/or transfer to a four-year college.*

(*compared to the national success rate of 38 percent among community college students)



LET'S TALK SCHOLARSHIPS

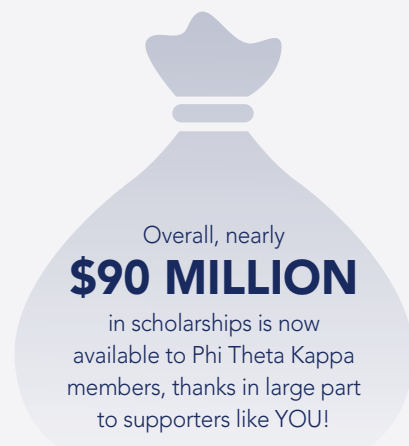
Phi Theta Kappa members are eligible for more than

\$37 MILLION

in transfer scholarships to more than 700 four-year colleges.

The average transfer scholarship received by a Phi Theta Kappa member is

\$2,500 PER YEAR.



PHI THETA KAPPA ITSELF FUNDS \$1 MILLION IN SCHOLARSHIPS that you can support through the Foundation.

PHI THETA KAPPA INDUCTS APPROXIMATELY

134,000 MEMBERS

EACH YEAR.



3.8 AVERAGE GPA

TOP ACADEMIC FIELDS



NURSING



BUSINESS



HEALTH
PROFESSIONS



LIBERAL
ARTS



EDUCATION



ACCOUNTING



CRIMINAL
JUSTICE



BIOLOGICAL
SCIENCE



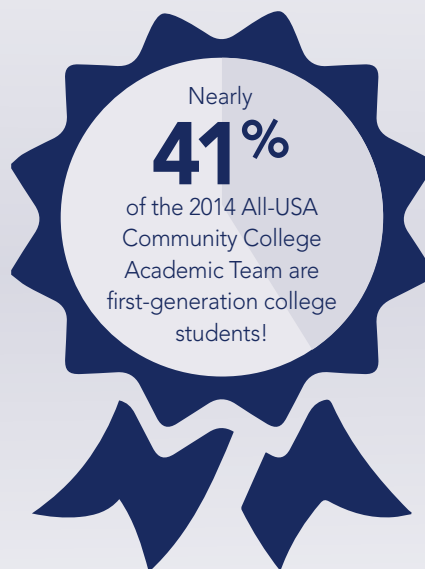
COMPUTER
SCIENCE



PSYCHOLOGY

DID YOU KNOW?

Approximately 90% of All-USA Community College Academic Team members are Phi Theta Kappa members.



50% of the 2014 All-USA applicants have a family income of \$34,999 or less.

Phi Theta Kappa FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The following are condensed financial statements for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012, derived from our consolidated financial statements audited by HORNE-LLP.

Copies of our Form 990 and financial statements are available upon request.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For the Years Ended December 31, 2013 and 2012

REVENUE, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT	2013	2012
Membership Fees	7,245,999	6,974,268
Contributions	739,862	708,514
Convention & Conference Fees	1,790,447	1,778,668
Recognition Item & Textbook Sales, Net	1,815,212	1,737,766
Grant Income	-	1,129,940
Support for Scholarships	708,522	879,307
Gain (Loss) on Investments	966,980	776,718
Other	1,852,688	1,423,190
Total Revenue, Gains and Other Support	<u>15,119,710</u>	<u>15,408,371</u>

EXPENSES

Program Services

Convention and Conferences	2,171,019	1,790,162
Scholarship Programs	1,308,583	1,228,197
Key Services Programs	1,611,050	1,543,240
Chapter and Faculty Programs	1,484,897	1,333,635
Communication and Publications	971,427	948,683
Recognition Services	839,969	808,525
Other	3,752,537	3,176,111
Total Program Services	<u>12,139,482</u>	<u>10,828,553</u>

Supporting Services

Management & General	3,137,906	2,933,184
Fundraising	113,249	111,529
Total Expenses	<u>15,390,637</u>	<u>13,873,266</u>
Change in Net Assets	(270,927)	1,535,105
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	15,542,323	14,007,218
Net Assets, End of Year	<u>15,271,396</u>	<u>15,542,323</u>

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2013 and 2012

ASSETS

Cash	3,973,163	5,034,870
Non-Cash Current Assets	1,695,829	1,473,092
Investments	9,671,399	8,283,368
Property, Plant & Equipment, Net	4,925,068	4,846,549
Other	475,112	475,751
Total Assets	<u>20,740,571</u>	<u>20,113,630</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities	1,603,943	1,417,395
Long-Term Liabilities	3,865,232	3,153,912
Total Liabilities	5,469,175	4,571,307
Net Assets	15,271,396	15,542,323
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>20,740,571</u>	<u>20,113,630</u>

2014 HONOR ROLL

of Donors

Thank you to the many who have generously supported Phi Theta Kappa! We are proud to celebrate your support of programs and services that help shape the lives of current and future Phi Theta Kappa students.

We are grateful for all contributions to the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation each and every year.

These lists include in-kind gifts, gifts of cash, stocks and property as well as gifts given in honor or in memory of an individual. While we carefully prepare this donor list, we recognize that errors may have occurred. Please accept our apology if your name is not properly represented and contact the Foundation office at 800.946.9995, ext. 5507, so our records can be corrected. Thank you.

OAK LEAF LEGACY SOCIETY

The Oak Leaf Society consists of individuals and organizations that have chosen to establish an endowment in support of Phi Theta Kappa. Endowment gifts strengthen the long-term financial security that is required to ensure quality programs and scholarships year after year.

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Christopher A. Calhoun	Joan and <i>Robert</i> Fedor	International Public Safety Leadership and Ethics Institute	Middle States Region	Texas Region
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<i>June Cordier</i>	Janice R. Freeman	Leanne W. Jardine	Mu Epsilon Chapter (FL)	Gayle Wyatt
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	<i>Shirley B. Gordon</i>		<i>David R. Pierce</i>	

ATHENA LEGACY SOCIETY

The Athena Society is designed to provide permanent recognition to those individuals who have made the thoughtful decision to leave a gift to the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation in their estate planning, regardless of the amount or the type of fund intended. Planned gifts include bequests, trusts, life insurance and other deferred giving options that allow individuals to support Phi Theta Kappa while making plans beneficial to their individual financial circumstances.

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Karri C. Chaney	Janice R. Freeman	Jo Marshall	Saralyn S. Quinn	Virginia Stahl
Phylliss and Harvey Cooke	Joyce F. Freeman	Cynthia Mason	Mia Ramos-Shirley	Terri Williamson
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Deidra Daws	Margaret and <i>Jack</i> Guistwhite	E. Ann McGee	Nancy L. Rieves	Billy Wilson
Laura and Mark Dupree		Barb and Bob Murray	Rod A. Risley	

**Deceased in italics*

DEFINE YOUR LEGACY

Provide life-changing experiences for Phi Theta Kappans for years to come by including a bequest to Phi Theta Kappa in your will or trust. Contact Dr. Nancy L. Rieves (601.984.3537 or nancy.rieves@ptk.org) or Karri Chaney (601.987.5507 or karri.chaney@ptk.org) to learn more about the benefits of setting up this simple gift or for sample language to share with your financial advisors.

LIFETIME GIVING CLUBS

Members of Phi Theta Kappa's Lifetime Giving Clubs are the philanthropic leaders of the Society whose gifts have made a tremendous impact on our members. Through these Clubs, we recognize the individuals who have made extraordinary commitments to Phi Theta Kappa with cumulative giving of \$500 or greater. These designations are based on one's cumulative giving to scholarships and specific projects and may include pledges and gifts-in-kind. Lifetime giving may also include contributions made in the supporter's name. For more information about joining a Lifetime Giving Club and pledging your commitment to Phi Theta Kappa, contact Dr. Nancy L. Rieves (601.984.3537 or nancy.rieves@ptk.org) or Karri Chaney (601.987.5507 or karri.chaney@ptk.org).

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