

PHI THETA KAPPA FOUNDATION

Visionary

2018 EDITION

Celebrating
100
Years





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 STATEMENT

To another century of changing lives through Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society: 1918-2018

VISIONARY 2018

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PHI THETA KAPPA MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Phi Theta Kappa is to recognize the academic achievement of college students and to provide opportunities for them to grow as scholars and leaders.

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VISIONARY MOMENTS



Phi Theta Kappa traces its beginnings to 1910, when six charter members established Kappa Phi Omicron on the campus of Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri. Over the next several years, the organization grew. Phi Theta Kappa was officially established in 1918 by the presidents of eight Missouri community colleges for women. Those original charter members and college presidents represent Phi Theta Kappa's first visionaries.

Over the past century, Phi Theta Kappa has had many visionary moments. The first came in 1924 when, through a constitutional amendment, Phi Theta Kappa membership was broadened to include all junior colleges. This set the stage for Phi Theta Kappa as we know it today. As a result of that visionary moment, Phi Theta Kappa has inducted more than 3.5 million high-achieving men and women and has nearly 1,300 chapters in nine nations.

Other visionary moments include PTK's recognition by the American Association of Community Colleges as the official honor society for two-year colleges, the designation of Phi Theta Kappa's 29 regions, the establishment of transfer scholarships designated exclusively for our members, and the development of the All-State, All-USA, and New Century Scholars programs.

More recently, Phi Theta Kappa has established an emergency scholarship fund for members called the Oberndorf Lifeline to Completion Scholarship, the Transfer Honor Roll that aims to connect high-achieving transfer students with right-fit institutions, and Phi Theta Kappa's first career technical scholarships. This year, the New Century program will expand to include recognition of the top career technical students in each state — another really exciting moment in our history.

But, behind the visionary moments are visionary people who are dedicated to Phi Theta Kappa's mission. Those people include members, alumni, volunteer advisors, college administrators, donors, and partner organizations. This publication celebrates nearly 100 Phi Theta Kappa visionaries.

The history of Phi Theta Kappa's impact on the lives of college students is a significant one. I invite you to join us as we celebrate the milestone of our centennial and to be a part of the next generation of Phi Theta Kappa visionaries.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lynn Tincher-Ladner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Lynn Tincher-Ladner, Ph.D.
President and CEO
Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

A LETTER FROM THE FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear friends,

Phi Theta Kappa is pleased to present the centennial issue of *Visionary*, with a focus on significant milestones for our Society, as well as the contributions of our distinguished alumni and friends. The generosity of Phi Theta Kappa supporters has enabled many students to fulfill their dreams and pursue careers that improve their quality of life and positively impact the communities where they work and live.

We congratulate Cottey College and the Epsilon Chapter leadership for their many years of service and recognize their legacy as one of the original eight Phi Theta Kappa chapters still active 100 years later. Also featured in this edition are family legacies, outstanding service projects, and the continued role and educational impact of Phi Theta Kappa.

As we reflect on our history, there are many events that served as a catalyst for shaping the Society into what it is today. Many of these milestones are captured in the feature stories about advisors, members, alumni, and friends who have made significant contributions to the continued success of Phi Theta Kappa. We extend a sincere thank you for the positive difference each of our members, alumni, friends, and supporters have made over the past century.

Please join me in thanking the inaugural members of the Centennial Circle (pg. 58). The Centennial Circle recognizes those who have given an annual gift of \$100 by December 31, 2018. An updated list of members will be published at ptkfoundation.org.

As we approach our annual convention and centennial celebration, PTK Catalyst 2018, April 19-21 in Kansas City, Missouri, we sincerely look forward to visiting with the Phi Theta Kappa family and friends who join us to celebrate this momentous occasion.

We hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Monica Marlowe". The script is elegant and cursive.

Monica Marlowe, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Phi Theta Kappa Foundation

THE LASTING IMPACT

OF PHI THETA KAPPA

Even after 100 years, Phi Theta Kappa continues to make its mark on the world of higher education.

For the first decade or so, Phi Theta Kappa's membership records were kept in a shoebox. For the next 18 years, the organization operated out of the back of a hardware store in Canton, Mississippi, before moving to the home of then-Executive Director Dr. Margaret Mosal.

These are humble beginnings for an organization that would grow to become the premier honor society for students seeking associate degrees. Phi Theta Kappa would impact both higher education and its members throughout its 100-year history; it continues to have an impact today, and the organization is positioning itself to take on an even greater leadership role in the future.

Ninety-one percent of PTK members will complete an associate degree and/or transfer to a four-year college; the national average is just 38 percent. Membership has always mattered, and it does now more than ever.



*(Top) First Board of Directors, 1967;
(Bottom Left) Early Headquarters office in
Canton, MS, 1968; (Bottom Right) Luella St.
Clair, president of Christian College, one of
the eight founders of Phi Theta Kappa*

LOOKING BACK

Phi Theta Kappa was founded in 1918 by eight college presidents in Missouri who wanted to honor the achievements of their students. It began as an organization for women, and chapters were hosted only

at female-serving colleges in a time when more and more women were stepping out of their homes, seeking an education, and entering the workforce. But the Society's potential was far greater, and the organization soon began spreading across the country.

Chapters sprang up at coeducational colleges; membership was opened to men. Growth in the 1920s was slow but steady, fueled by college presidents.

In 1929, the then-American Association of Junior Colleges recognized the organization as the official honor society for associate degree-granting colleges. Even then, despite chapters and members being separated by hundreds of miles, higher education leaders knew this was more than just a “club.”

It was believed that membership would help students later in life, and not only by opening doors to scholarships and jobs. For many students, the membership invitation is the first signal that they can make it in college. It is an affirmation of their success, and it keeps them moving forward.

Phi Theta Kappa put this belief into practice by developing even more opportunities for their students. Honors Institute, established in 1968, exposed attendees to scholarly lectures by distinguished speakers and stretched their minds through small-group discussions. The first transfer scholarship exclusively for PTK members to a four-year college was established to Florida Atlantic University in 1975.

Alumni associations were established to further fellowship and networking among members. In 1984, Phi Theta Kappa began its first service program: The Support Project for the Restoration of the Statue of Liberty.



(Top) The six founding members of Kappa Phi Omicron at Stephens College, 1918; (Middle) Participants of the first Honors Institute, 1968; (Bottom Left) Sue Caldwell, first recipient of the Florida Atlantic University Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship; (Bottom Right) Endicott President Dr. George Bierkoe, Dr. Margaret Mosal, Endicott Dean Dr. Eleanor Tupper, and Phi Theta Kappa Associate Director Gayle Wyatt planning the very first Honors Institute at Endicott College in 1968

MOVING FORWARD

In 2014, Phi Theta Kappa inducted its 3 millionth member. More than 750 four-year colleges now offer more than \$87 million in transfer scholarships exclusively to PTK members, and they can connect directly with all transfer students through CollegeFish.org.

Thousands of students across the country have pledged to complete a college degree by signing the Community College Completion Corps (C4) banner. More than \$3.8 million has been raised by chapters for the American Cancer Society since 2002.

Upon completing an associate degree, Phi Theta Kappa members will either transfer to a four-year college or enter directly into the workforce; Society membership offers benefits for both sets of students. Participation in honors and service projects develops soft skills to build their confidence, boost their resumes, and grow leadership skills.

Phi Theta Kappa members are often second-chance students — they are non-traditional and returning to college for a new career, a new certification, a new beginning. In 2017, the organization took it a step further and extended membership to those incarcerated or on probation.

The scholarship opportunities are significant — the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation awards \$1.5 million in scholarships each year. The list of four-year college partners continues to grow. And, the organization recently introduced scholarships specifically for

career-technical students: the Hurst Review NCLEX® Scholarship for nursing students, and the New Century Workforce Pathway Scholarship funded by a grant from The Coca-Cola Foundation. Even after a hundred years, the organization continues to make history.

Service is at the center of Phi Theta Kappa chapter activities. On every college campus that has a PTK chapter, students are making a difference through community service. What's more, they're doing it their own way — each chapter looks for the greatest need on its campus and in its community and responds accordingly. They are establishing food banks, collecting items for hurricane relief, hosting blood drives, and collecting books for children.

Through its Hallmarks of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Fellowship — and through the support of college presidents across the country — Phi Theta Kappa made its mark in higher education. Its programs were innovative, its ideas were big, and its reach was wide. A hundred years later, not much has changed.



(Top Left) Phi Theta Kappa member pledging to complete her college degree by signing the Community College Completion Corps banner at PTK Catalyst 2017; (Top Right) Scholarship recipients recognized at Phi Theta Kappa's annual convention; (Bottom Left) Members of the Limestone Correctional Facility being inducted into the Sigma Lambda Chapter at Calhoun Community College in November 2017



100 YEARS

AT COTTEY COLLEGE

One of the original Phi Theta Kappa chapters continues its legacy of excellence.

Phi Theta Kappa isn't the only one celebrating 100 years — the Epsilon Chapter at Cottey College is also in its centennial year as a PTK chapter.

The Epsilon Chapter has the unique distinction of being the oldest continually operating chapter in Phi Theta Kappa. It was one of the eight original chapters founded in 1918; the other chapters have since disbanded because their college either closed or transitioned to a four-year university.

"As a historian, I am thrilled to be involved with Epsilon Chapter," said Angela Firkus, co-advisor of the chapter. "Last summer, I spent some time traveling to the schools and former schools that were also founding members. I am very proud not only that Cottey College has survived but that it also has continued its commitment to the first two years of college."

Cottey College is a small, all-women's college in Nevada, Missouri, that offers both associate and bachelor's degrees. It was founded in 1884 by Virginia Alice Cottey and was gifted to the P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization) Sisterhood in 1927. This group oversees the college today.

Alice Cottey was there, at Stephens College in Missouri in 1918, when Phi Theta Kappa was born.

"Being a part of the oldest chapter in our country is very rewarding, and I feel honored to be a part of something so amazing that helps change young women's lives," said Robin Mallinson, chapter co-advisor. "Though very rewarding, I feel the pressure of not letting down our founders of PTK and keeping our Cottey history within PTK alive and strong."

"I feel a sense of drive and motivation to keep our Epsilon Chapter stronger than it ever has been."

Firkus said the chapter typically has about 30 or 40 members — roughly 15 percent of the student population — and an acceptance rate of about 90 percent. The chapter was recognized as both a REACH Chapter and a Five Star Chapter in 2017.

"Students here find membership to be a great honor," she said.

The Epsilon Chapter regularly conducts Honors in Action and College Projects. This year, for its College Project, the chapter partnered with the college faculty and community members to offer a series of "adulting" classes to help students prepare for life beyond college.

Classes have ranged from sewing, cooking, and changing a flat tire, to applying for scholarships and navigating a crisis situation.

"I believe all of the classes we had available were incredibly beneficial because students don't always receive that type of teaching at home or in school," said Veronica Wright, the chapter's publicity coordinator. "Being able to see the impact on campus is amazing, and I'm glad that we're able to do something beneficial for our campus community."

"Overall, the history of our chapter and our advisors both promote a strong foundation to shape hard-working and determined young women, and I am honored to serve on a board with women such as these."



The chapter is also working on a project to empower students to make their own decisions about conspiracy theories. The students are encouraged to take personal action to find the missing knowledge.

One of the chapter's past Honors in Action Projects involved Cottey College's garbage. Members collected all of the dry trash generated on campus for a day. They recycled what they could and asked an art student to make artwork out of the rest.

In the process, the chapter researched where the Cottey trash ends up, how much trash is generated, and how much can be recycled.

"Being a PTK member offers a unique opportunity to be involved on campus on a deeper level than other organizations do," said chapter secretary Rebecca Robinson. "Being in PTK encourages members to be a link between the student body and the faculty, as well as to be leaders and helpers on campus."

"Being a part of the oldest continually active chapter is an honor. Being inducted into PTK was already an honor, but finding out about the history of Epsilon Chapter gave me an extra sense of pride and enthusiasm for this organization."



A CENTURY OF SERVICE

Changing lives and communities — it wasn't spelled out directly in Phi Theta Kappa's original mission statement, but that's exactly what PTK members have been doing for the past 100 years through volunteer service.

Regions, chapters, advisors, members, and alumni have brought the second part of Phi Theta Kappa's mission to life by taking advantage of opportunities to learn, lead, and serve. In the past three decades alone, Phi Theta Kappa members have logged more than 1 million hours of service and touched countless lives.

Although there's no longer an official Annual Service project, members continue to serve their campuses and communities in record numbers, and many alumni say membership inspired them to continue volunteering long after graduation.

"I fell in love with my PTK family through service," said Tito Cabellero, 2017-2018 president of the Middle States Region, which aims to complete 100 service projects in honor of PTK's centennial. "We love service initiatives in our region and how it brings us all together, so what better way to celebrate our Society's 100th year?"

Several service initiatives live on to this day as chapters carry on the work they started initially as part of an Annual Service Project — what would later become the two-year International Service Programs.

Phi Theta Kappa began sponsoring Annual Service Projects in 1984-85 with the Support Project for the Restoration of the Statue of Liberty. A different focus was selected each year until 1994, when Mental Health was launched as a two-year program in partnership with the National Mental Health Association.

While not an official service project, Project Graduation encouraged guests to bring books and canned goods to commencement ceremonies. The project was inspired by the late Dr. Carole Gavin, a longtime New Jersey advisor. From 2002 to 2007, 49,135 food items and 43,930 books were collected through Project Graduation.

The Conquering Cancer Service Program was Phi Theta Kappa's most successful International Service Program to date, with nearly 800 participating Chapters of Service. It began in 2002, and in 2004, the International Officers voted to extend the program for an additional two years due to strong support from chapters and the personal connection so many felt to battling the disease.

In 2003 and 2005, Phi Theta Kappa was recognized as the top collegiate contributor to the American Cancer Society's (ACS) signature fundraising event, Relay For Life®.

In 2006, while launching a new International Service Program focus, the Society made a long-term commitment to Relay For Life as a civic engagement initiative. Since Phi Theta Kappa began its partnership with the ACS 16 years ago, more than \$3.8 million has been raised through chapter participation in Relay events.

This partnership is the longest that ACS has ever had with a member-based organization, and no other organization has raised as much money for Relay For Life as Phi Theta Kappa has, said Kristen Solt, ACS strategic director of global stakeholder engagement.

"Phi Theta Kappans are 'extending' the work of the American Cancer Society, utilizing their strengths and passion to create a world with less cancer and more birthdays," she said. "Phi Theta Kappans are helping move our fight against cancer forward in a powerful way."

The overarching goal of the International Service Program was to unite the Society's members in a Service Hallmark initiative that would result in an enormous impact. Phi Theta Kappa members represent a dedicated, formidable force when it comes to service, and the goal was to use that power for the greater good.

Today, service continues to be an important part of Phi Theta Kappa's signature programs — Honors in Action Projects, which focus on a theme of the Society's Honors Study Topic, and the College Project, in which the chapter works with the college administration on a project that supports the college's mission.

And when disaster strikes, Phi Theta Kappans are always there for other members, as they were after the 9/11 attacks and Hurricanes Katrina, Sandy, Harvey, and Irma. In addition to raising money for important causes, many chapters have traveled to disaster sites to volunteer.



INTERNATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAMS

1993-94

Colleges and Communities:
Celebrating Together

1994-96

Mental Health: Everyone's
Concern

1996-98

AIDS Awareness

1998-2000

America Reads

2000-02

America's Promise

2002-Present

Conquering Cancer



GROWING UP

PHI THETA KAPPA

Many people have been members and advisors of Phi Theta Kappa, but a select few grew up in PTK – with an advisor as a parent.



Eric Chong and Erica Chong

One of those children was Erica Chong, an associate chemistry professor at Edmonds Community College in Washington. Her father, Eric, just celebrated his 15th anniversary as an advisor at Guam Community College. When it came to his daughter, Eric said he wanted to see if Phi Theta Kappa really “worked.”

“I encouraged Erica to participate in everything; she held the chapter presidency, attended our international convention, led a Five Star chapter, and obtained the scholarships to earn her bachelor’s degree,” he said. “Phi Theta Kappa truly works!”

Erica said her father has always demonstrated an enthusiasm to be a life-long learner, which influenced her outlook on life and academics.

“With my father as an advisor, I learned to be a leader who integrated academics with community and service,” she said.

Gabrielle Woods spent much of her childhood attending Phi Theta Kappa events, including working at a camp for children with cancer. Her mother, Dr. Nancy Woods, is a chapter advisor and former Iowa Regional Coordinator.

“I was motivated to earn good grades so that I could be a member of Phi Theta Kappa and continue to do

Gabrielle Woods and Dr. Nancy Woods



such wonderful things," she said. "I think participating in those camps planted a seed that grew to be my life's goal — to help children with cancer."

Gabrielle received a Pearson Scholarship and the GEICO Pathway to Completion Bachelor's Degree Scholarship, and she was named a Coca-Cola Gold Scholar. She is now attending the University of Northern Iowa.

The support can also go both ways. Dr. Sauda Smith, advisor at H. Lavity Stoutt Community College in the British Virgin Islands, received encouragement from her son to apply as a Faculty Scholar. Esteban Smith served as 2011-2012 International Vice President.

"I was really nervous to apply; I was very intimidated," she said. "When my son said, 'Come on mom. You push me to do everything. At least you can apply,' I knew I had to do it."

Sauda was selected as a Faculty Scholar, served on the Honors Program Council, and helped host the first Faculty Scholar Conference beyond the borders of the United States in the British Virgin Islands.



Dr. Sauda Smith



Esteban Smith



David Mantini and Dr. Barbara Mantini

"I've always known my mother to be creative and charitable," Esteban said. "But Phi Theta Kappa provided one of my first lenses as a member to see her genius at work."

Esteban attends law school at the University of Leeds in England. He and fellow International Officers Tameka Wilson, Danielle Swartz, Sarah Yates, and Jeremy Mathis collaborated with Rosemary and Lou Oberndorf to create the Oberndorf Lifeline to Completion Scholarship.

David Mantini wasn't a Phi Theta Kappa member, but he is now following in his late mother's footsteps as the advisor of the chapter she helped charter.

Dr. Barbara Mantini, the founding advisor for the Phi Xi Chapter at North Hennepin Community College in Minnesota, was a Mosal Scholar and a Giles Distinguished Advisor, and she helped develop many Honors Study Topics.

Her son, David, grew up around PTK and attended four national conventions.

"My mother exposed me to some of the best and brightest students through PTK, and I am proud to continue the tradition," he said.



PHI THETA KAPPA

VISIONARIES

Phi Theta Kappa celebrates 100 years in 2018, but we never could have made it to this milestone alone. Our hardworking and dedicated staff members have been key to making Phi Theta Kappa what it is today, but they've had tremendous help along the way.

Meet nearly 100 members, advisors, partners, and friends who have contributed immeasurably to the growth of the Society and who stand ready to guide it into its next century.



Dr. David Pierce

The late Dr. David Pierce became the second leader of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) to serve on Phi Theta Kappa's Board of Directors (following Dr. Dale Parnell, pg. 27), serving from 1992 to 2003 and as vice chair from 2001 to 2003. During his tenure, he led community college presidents to participate in the Society's first capital campaign to raise funds for construction of the Center for Excellence, Phi Theta Kappa's permanent Headquarters.

Pierce is also credited with beginning the tradition of recognizing the All-USA Academic Team during Phi Theta Kappa's annual Presidents Breakfast at the AACC convention and assisting with the development of the Centennial Scholars Program (today the New Century Scholars program), which honors the top student at an associate degree-granting college in each state. In gratitude for his service, he was named an International Honorary Member of Phi Theta Kappa in 2001.

Interviewed for Phi Theta Kappa's *Visionary* magazine and *History of Impact* publication in 2013, Pierce recalled his service on the Society's Board of Directors and reiterated his unwavering support for Phi Theta Kappa, calling it "the marvel and envy of the educational world."

"Phi Theta Kappa benefits students by providing an almost unlimited number of opportunities in the form of scholarships, recognition, honors, networking, and enrichment programs," he said. "A student who becomes active in Phi Theta Kappa and takes advantage of its program opportunities will benefit in a transformational way as both a person and student."

"I think Phi Theta Kappa provides motivation and recognition for students who historically didn't benefit from those advantages. It's our standard-bearer for community colleges — making opportunities available that weren't previously there."

Pierce was also a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation's Athena Society, having remembered the Society in his estate planning.

After his death in early 2014, the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation announced the Society would honor Pierce's memory with the establishment of a scholarship in his name. The \$1,000 scholarship is presented annually to the student chosen to represent the All-USA Academic Team by speaking during the Closing Plenary Brunch at the AACC annual convention. AACC gave a \$5,000 donation to the scholarship fund in Pierce's memory.

"We wanted to do something in memory of David, the extraordinary leadership he provided to AACC, and the exceptional man that he was," said Dr. Walter Bumphus, president and CEO of AACC (pg. 37).

"Recognizing how important Phi Theta Kappa was to David and the great value he and his family placed on community college students, we thought it only fitting that we make a contribution to the inaugural Pierce Scholarship in his name."

The first David R. Pierce Scholarship was awarded in 2014.



Kevin R. Braden

Kevin Braden's Phi Theta Kappa journey had just begun in 1993, when he set out to lead his chapter at Kishwaukee College from zero stars to five. Just 12 months later, they walked away from the annual convention as a Five Star chapter, with Braden elected as the Society's International President.

That night he also became the first recipient of the Orlowski Award to be elected to International Office. Each year the Orlowski Candidate Scholarship, given in memory of the late National Officer Steve Orlowski, is presented to the candidate chosen by his or her peers as best representing the spirit of Phi Theta Kappa.

Braden considered how Phi Theta Kappa had changed his life and wanted to pay it forward. When Dr. Mary Anne Player (pg. 20) passed away, he was concerned the Orlowski Award might not continue. So, he committed to funding half of the \$1,500 Orlowski Scholarship plus the cost of the medallion annually.

When he learned an endowment from Player's estate would fund the award, he redirected his donation to the West Williamson Scholarship Fund, created in memory of the late Phi Theta Kappa staff member to help a new chapter attend its first international convention.

Braden still provides the Orlowski medallion and serves as a champion for the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation and its initiatives, including as a member of the Athena Society. He served on the Alumni Advisory Council, is active in the Illinois Regional Alumni Association, and believes alumni, former International Officers, and all those close to Phi Theta Kappa should provide financial and motivational support for current members.



Anthony Sadberry

The late Anthony "Tony" Sadberry was the first African American to serve as a National Officer in Phi Theta Kappa, a position to which he was elected in 1969.

This was not Sadberry's first time as a "first" — in his senior year of high school in 1968, integration was mandated, and he was the first and only African American student to attend North Shore High School in Texas. He graduated with honors and enrolled at Navarro College, where he joined Phi Theta Kappa.

Sadberry received a bachelor's degree at the University of Texas at Austin. He attended Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C. and received his Juris Doctor degree in 1975.

He worked as an assistant attorney general in Texas until 1977, when he moved to private practice. In 1993, he was appointed by then-Governor Ann Richards to serve on the Texas Lottery Commission. In 2006, he was named executive director of the Texas Lottery.

Sadberry spoke at Phi Theta Kappa's 1986 Honors Institute and frequently spoke at Texas Region events. He served on the Phi Theta Kappa Board of Directors from 1990-1996 and was a Phi Theta Kappa Foundation Trustee at the time of his death in 2008.

He was posthumously recognized with a Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Dr. George Boggs

Dr. George Boggs has served as vice chair of Phi Theta Kappa's Board of Directors since 2006 and was named chair in 2016. He is also an International Honorary Member of Phi Theta Kappa and a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation Board of Trustees.

Boggs led the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) from 2000 to 2010 as its president and CEO. In 2008, he was instrumental in developing the successful joint session of AACC's and Phi Theta Kappa's conventions, which showcased Phi Theta Kappa members before an audience of several thousand college administrators.

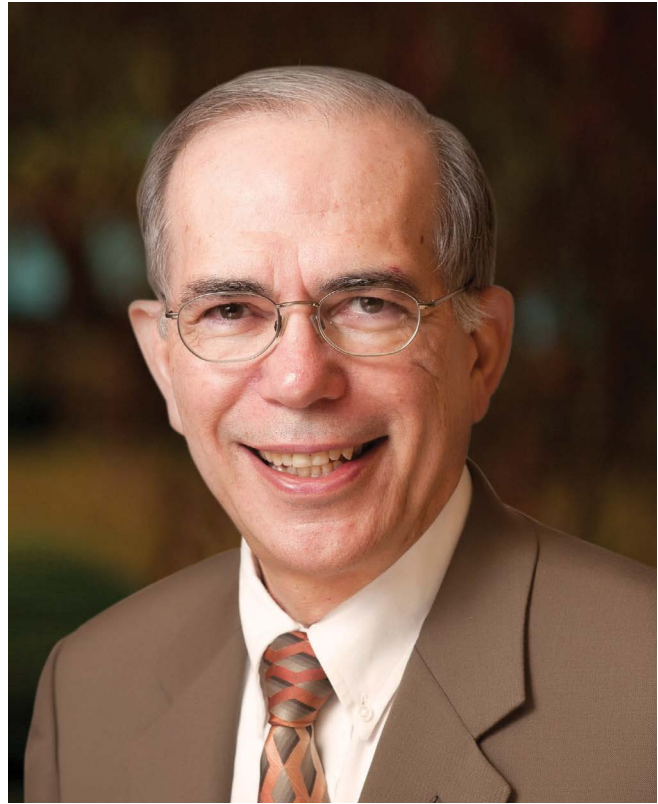
In 2010, he organized the completion agenda by creating Democracy's Colleges: Call to Action. In an unprecedented action, AACC assembled representatives of five other community college organizations. Phi Theta Kappa was the only student organization invited to be a part of this momentous event.

Signers of the Call to Action pledged their commitment to increase student completion rates by 50 percent over the next decade and meet President Barack Obama's goal of returning the United States to its former position as the world's best-educated country.

"I asked Phi Theta Kappa to join us in endorsing Democracy's Colleges: Call to Action because it is the best-known student organization," Boggs said. "I am pleased to see the leadership role that Phi Theta Kappa has taken to improve degree completion rates for community college students."

Boggs was a founding faculty member, division chair, and associate dean of instruction at Butte College in California and, for over 15 years, was the superintendent/president of Palomar College in California. In addition to being named president and CEO emeritus of AACC, he also holds the title of superintendent/president emeritus of Palomar College.

A prolific writer, Boggs has authored more than 100 articles or chapters and has lectured extensively on key higher educational issues, including faculty preparation and evaluation, leadership development,



college governance, developmental education, and cultural diversity.

His book, co-authored with Christine McPhail, *Practical Leadership in Community Colleges: Navigating Today's Challenges*, was released in 2016. The book addresses current trends and issues facing today's community colleges, such as college completion, performance-based funding, economic cycles, and diversity/inclusiveness.

Boggs has been recognized by the Public Broadcasting System with its Terry O'Banion Prize for Teaching and Learning for "triggering the most significant educational movement of the past decade." He has been honored by The University of Texas as a Distinguished Graduate and received the AACC Leadership Award in 2016.

"Phi Theta Kappa has recognized the achievements of students at associate degree-granting colleges and provided opportunities for their growth for 100 years," Boggs said. "I am proud to be a part of this great organization and look forward to carrying its legacy of excellence into the next century."

Deedre Daniel

You know its mascot, and you know its tagline. But did you know that GEICO has given more than \$3 million to support scholarships and programs for Phi Theta Kappa members?

Deedre Daniel, GEICO's director, national sales and service: partnership, affinity, and membership discounts, is Phi Theta Kappa's lead contact with GEICO. Through her partnership and guidance, GEICO has offered a discount to PTK members and advisors, garnering more business for the insurer and helping college students and faculty save money.

The scholarship and professional development opportunities GEICO funds are an added bonus.

"Phi Theta Kappa works hard to promote the discount we created for their members," Daniel said. "Everyone wins here."

The GEICO Pathway to Completion Scholarship Program provides \$10,000 to Phi Theta Kappa members: two awards of \$1,000 each at the associate level; two awards of \$1,500 each at the baccalaureate level; and two awards of \$2,500 at the graduate level. The program looks for students who have held a significant leadership position.

In 2015, GEICO added another scholarship for members. As anyone who's seen a GEICO commercial knows, the company is creative and has a great sense of humor; so, it established MEME 4 Money: GEICO's Creativity Scholarship.

Five scholarships of \$1,000 each are given to members who submit the most hilarious, meme-able caption to one of six photos. A team of judges selects its four favorites, and members are invited to vote online to select a People's Choice winner.

"Having a keen sense of humor requires intelligence, creativity, and a light-hearted attitude, all of which are helpful in both personal and professional life," Daniel said. "It takes a special person to possess those qualities, and

GEICO is proud to recognize those individuals through the MEME 4 Money scholarship program."

GEICO's support doesn't stop at members — the organization also funds the Mosal and Marshall Awards for advisors. These awards provide financial support to advisors for the completion of projects that lead to personal, professional, and leadership growth. Each award carries a \$5,000 stipend.

GEICO is also a regular sponsor of PTK Catalyst, Phi Theta Kappa's annual convention. The on-stage appearance of the GEICO Gecko is a highlight for attendees, and the company's booth in the convention Marketplace is a regular hub of fun activities and giveaways.

"We value education and actively promote it within our company too," Daniel said. "It is our hope that these students go on to finish their degrees and find rewarding careers when they graduate."



June Cordier

The late June Cordier was a faculty member at Wilbur Wright College in Chicago and the charter advisor for the Theta Omega Chapter. She served as the first Illinois Regional Coordinator and received many national awards during her tenure as both advisor and Regional Coordinator.

She was closely involved with the creation of Honors Institute in 1968, and she endowed a lecture that continues today.

Cordier received a bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois, Champaign, and a master's degree from Northwestern University. She was active in many organizations, including the American Lutheran Church, Questers, Delta Kappa Gamma, and the Scandinavian Club.

Ann Morris

Ann Morris became a member of the Iota Mu Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa and also served as a longtime advisor at Pearl River Community College in Poplarville, Mississippi.

She is a graduate of The University of Southern Mississippi and served as director of institutional effectiveness at Pearl River Community College.

She also served as advisor of the Theta of Mississippi Alumni Association and as chairman of the Alumni Advisory Council from 1992 to 1998.

Morris received the Board of Directors Alumni Achievement Award in 1998 and has previously served as a volunteer judge for Phi Theta Kappa scholarship competitions.

Eric Chong

Eric Chong serves as advisor of the Beta Beta Xi Chapter at Guam Community College and has helped charter many new Phi Theta Kappa chapters in the Pacific Region.

He is also a Mosal Scholar and has been recognized as a Distinguished Advisor.

Chong has served as a Faculty Scholar and as the Advisor Representative on the Board of Directors from 2007-2009.

He and his wife, Josephine, are part of the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation's 1918 Club because of their contributions. Their daughter, Erica, is a Phi Theta Kappa alumna.

Norma Kent

Norma Kent promoted the cause of community colleges for more than a decade in her role as director of communications for the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), but her connection with them began at Frank Phillips College in Texas, where she was inducted into the Eta Iota Chapter.

Before joining AACC, Kent served as media relations manager for the Dallas County Community College District, where she was named Innovator of the Year for her public relations efforts. She has served as a judge for *Nota Bene*, PTK's literary anthology, for several years, and she was a key player in getting the New Century Scholar program sponsored by The Coca-Cola Foundation and The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation.

Kent received the PTK Board of Directors Alumni Achievement Award in 2001.

Eleanor Winfrey

Eleanor Winfrey was a dean at William Woods College in Missouri, home of the Eta Chapter and one of the eight founding Phi Theta Kappa colleges. The school is now a four-year college.

Winfrey was a member of the then-American Association of Junior Colleges committee that successfully presented Phi Theta Kappa's petition for recognition as the official honor society for two-year colleges. Other committee members were Dean H.A. Cross of Phoenix Junior College in Arizona and J.B. Lillard of Sacramento Junior College in California.



Dr. Anne Levig

Dr. Anne Levig is the former advisor of the Alpha Delta Upsilon Chapter at Anoka-Ramsey Community College in Minnesota.

She also served as Regional Coordinator of the Minn-Io-Wi-Kota (now Minn-Kota) Region and as an alumni advisor for the Alpha of Minnesota Alumni Association. Levig was one of the charter Regional Advisors in 1967 (the predecessor to Regional Coordinators), as Phi Theta Kappa began to develop regions.

A former Distinguished Advisor, Levig was named Distinguished Regional Coordinator in 1993 and also received a Mosal Scholarship that year.

Under her leadership, the Alpha Delta Upsilon Chapter received numerous awards, particularly in the area of honors programming.

She holds the title of Regional Coordinator Emeritus and was named Advisor Emeritus in 2014.

Before the current Hallmark Awards program was established, Levig gave an annual award called the Siren-Levig Award, presented to an outstanding non-traditional student. The award was named for her mother and herself.

Levig's late husband, Dr. Tom Levig, was also a well-known Minnesota community college administrator who helped to establish Cambridge Community College and served as the college's Foundation Director for many years.

Levig is enjoying her retirement in Sun City, Arizona. She maintains a close friendship with fellow former advisors and travels with them frequently; in 2014, she attended a small Phi Theta Kappa reunion in Jackson, Mississippi, that included former staff member Gayle Wyatt, Dr. Robert Blank (pg. 42), Dr. Jo Marshall (pg. 49), and alumnus Barry Reynolds (pg. 29).



Edmund J. Gleazer Jr.

Edmund Gleazer was considered by many to be the "Father of the American Community College." As executive director of the then-American Association of Junior Colleges for 25 years, he guided the growth of community colleges across the country.

He also suggested to Phi Theta Kappa's then-executive director, Dr. Margaret Mosal, that the Society host the first Presidents Breakfast during the now-AACC's annual conference in 1960, a tradition PTK has continued ever since. Today, this breakfast recognizes and honors the All-USA Academic Team and the New Century Transfer Pathway Scholars.

Gleazer also provided guidance on the establishment of Honors Institute, which was formed in 1968 to mark Phi Theta Kappa's 50th anniversary.

Upon his retirement from AACC in 1981, Gleazer became an adjunct professor in the Community College Leadership Program at the University of Texas at Austin. He worked with the International Council for Adult Education and the Coalition of Adult Education Organizations. He also served on President Jimmy Carter's Commission on Foreign Languages and International Studies.

He graduated from Graceland University in Iowa in 1936 and became the university's youngest president. The college's School of Education is named for him.

Dr. Matthew Quinn

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 found him at the helm of an organization that would become a game changer for many outstanding community college students with financial need: the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, created through the will of prominent businessman, sportsman, and philanthropist Jack Kent Cooke, a self-made billionaire who died in 1997.

Quinn served as founding executive director of the organization from its inception in 2000 through 2009. The Foundation has established the Matthew J. Quinn Prize and the Matthew J. Quinn Youth Leadership Award in his honor.

Today, the Foundation has a collection of programs that 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, which provides up to \$40,000 per year to each of approximately 45 deserving students annually.

It's the largest private scholarship for two-year college transfer students in the country, making the nation's top colleges and universities, including Ivy Leagues, accessible to community college students. Historically the majority of recipients have also been Phi Theta Kappa members.

Early support from Phi Theta Kappa executives led the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation to establish a program for community college students.

"It quickly became apparent that Phi Theta Kappa knew what the best routes were to find competent, capable, and needy community college students," Quinn said. "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."

In 2006, Quinn returned that support by serving as chair of the Board of Trustees for the newly formed Phi Theta Kappa Foundation. Under his leadership, the foundation's funds grew from \$150,000 to more than \$6 million, which allowed the Society to expand existing scholarship programs and establish new ones, such as the Hites Transfer Scholarship and the Oberndorf Lifeline to Completion Scholarship. He retired from the post in 2015.

"No one person can do it all, but it all can be done if we all pitch in," he said. "By contributing to the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation, people will ensure that this tradition of achievement and opportunity will continue."

Joan S. Keller

The late Joan S. “Joanie” Keller was Carolinas Regional Coordinator Emeritus, Advisor Emeritus, and the 2014 Board of Directors Alumni Achievement Award recipient.

A member of the Alpha Epsilon Omicron Chapter at Trident Technical College, Keller served as its chapter advisor, alumni advisor, and Carolinas Regional Coordinator from 1991 to 2001.

She was recognized as a Mosal Scholar and a Distinguished Advisor, and she served as a Faculty Scholar and a Leadership Development Program certified instructor.

Keller was a charter member of the Carolinas Region Alumni Association and the Gamma of South Carolina Alumni Association. Upon her death in 2014, the Carolinas Region established the Joan S. Keller Servant Leadership Scholarship in her memory.

Carolyn Shanks

Carolyn Shanks is the former president and CEO of Entergy Mississippi. She’s an alumna of the Theta Sigma Chapter at Northwest Mississippi Community College.

Shanks is also a graduate of Mississippi State University. She is a former member and chair of the Mississippi Economic Council and was recognized as one of Mississippi’s leading businesswomen in 1997.

She received the Phi Theta Kappa Board of Directors Alumni Achievement Award in 2000 for her unyielding support of PTK’s first Evening of Arts and Authors, which honored *Nota Bene* student authors.

Dr. Mary Anne Player

The late Dr. Mary Anne Player served as advisor of the Theta Omega Chapter at Wilbur Wright College, the Alpha of Illinois Alumni Association, and Illinois Regional Coordinator from 1972-1998.

She established the Orlowski Scholarship in memory of Theta Omega member Steve Orlowski, who died while serving as 1986-1987 North Central Vice President.

Player left a \$50,000 gift from her estate to support a \$1,500 annual Orlowski Scholarship for International Officer candidates.

Each year the recipient is selected by his or her peers as the candidate who best exemplifies the Society’s Hallmarks of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Fellowship.

Shirley Scarbrough

Shirley Scarbrough became a member of Phi Theta Kappa in 1986 at Jefferson College in Missouri. She was named the Board of Directors Alumni Achievement Award winner in 2007.

Scarbrough received the Missouri Region’s Distinguished Member, Distinguished Alumni, and Distinguished Service awards. Jefferson College also recognized her as Alumna of the Year in 1996.

She has been a member of Theta of Missouri Alumni Association since 1987. Scarbrough is a charter member of the Missouri Alumni Association and was Missouri’s Regional Alumni Officer from 1988-1994.

She also served on the Alumni Advisory Council, including one term as chair.

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 even served as the New England/Middle States Vice President in 1982.

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.

Rosemary & Lou Oberndorf

Rosemary and Lou Oberndorf are well known in the higher education world as steadfast supporters of college completion. Through relationships with colleges across the country, they have helped hundreds of students achieve their dreams of completing a college degree.

But when it came to doing something more substantial, something that would have a lasting impact on some of the most need-driven students out there, they turned to Phi Theta Kappa and established the Oberndorf Lifeline to Completion Scholarship, which gives financial support to students facing unanticipated financial barriers to degree or certificate completion. Up to 15 awards of \$1,000 are given each year.

"At a community college, we know it doesn't take much to throw them off the track to completion," Lou said. "Completion is critical to me. Completion is the signal to the world that you've achieved something, and it will stay with you the rest of your life."

The Oberndorfs' relationship with Phi Theta Kappa began when Lou — then-CEO of METI, a leader in medical education technology whose products are used in many two-year colleges and leading medical schools — joined with the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) to establish a scholarship for community college students in health care fields in memory of his friend and mentor, Frank Lanza. Phi Theta Kappa administered the scholarship, and \$200,000 in Frank Lanza Memorial Scholarships was given from 2011 through 2014.

During Phi Theta Kappa's 2014 annual convention, the Oberndorf Family Foundation received the Alliance for Educational Excellence Award. Lou is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation Board of Trustees, and the Oberndorfs also give a \$500 scholarship to each of

the 10 International Officer candidate finalists at Phi Theta Kappa's annual convention.

Lou is a first-generation college student who received a bachelor's degree from the University of Portland in Oregon and an MBA from the University of Utah. Rosemary grew up in Brooklyn, New York, and attended Chestnut Hills College, a private women's college in Pennsylvania.

Her love of education was inspired by her father, who immigrated to America from Italy when he was five. He completed bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs at night while working full time as an executive for AT&T. She knew little about community colleges before Lou began working with them through his business; today, they are both fierce supporters.

"When I started my business, I discovered the power of community colleges in society, and I've been a staunch advocate for them ever since," Lou said. "They are one of the most valuable assets in our society."

"And if you believe that, then you have to believe that Phi Theta Kappa is at the top of that pyramid."





Dr. E. Ann McGee

At the start of each school year, Dr. E. Ann McGee likes to drive to all four campuses of Seminole State College of Florida and watch the new students.

"They may be wet behind the ears, and some of them have a deer-in-the-headlights look, but the promise is there," she said.

McGee knows all about the promise of student success. During her 21 years as Seminole's president, she has guided hundreds of students to achieve great things. Seminole claims 17 Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Scholarship winners, more than any other college in the nation.

McGee is a graduate of St. Petersburg College, where she was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa. She was a Phi Theta Kappa chapter officer, class president, and St. Petersburg's Most Outstanding Graduate.

"Phi Theta Kappa taught me to value fellowship and leadership, and also how to relate to people, all lessons I have used my entire life," she said. "Phi Theta Kappa is all about student success, showing students how to be the best they can be."

McGee received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Florida State University, where she was named to Phi Beta Kappa. Her doctorate in higher education is from Nova Southeastern University.

As Seminole's president, she has continued to support her local Phi Theta Kappa chapter, Pi Lambda, the Florida Region, and Phi Theta Kappa's international initiatives, especially the Community College Completion Corps.

McGee is a recipient of the Shirley B.

Gordon Award of Distinction and served on the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation's Board of Trustees.

She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa's Presidential Advisory Board, and in 2017, she was named a Distinguished Alumna.

"I believe Phi Theta Kappa will be largely responsible for the success of the completion agenda," she said. "Phi Theta Kappa is raising the bar in terms of what students expect from their colleges, and what colleges should expect from their students."

Well known as a leader in higher education and in community development, McGee has served on the American Association of Community Colleges' Presidents Academy Executive Committee and was named the top community college CEO in the nation by the Association of Community College Trustees. As a 2012 Fulbright Scholar, McGee worked with Russian higher education leaders to examine the feasibility and possible impact of a community college system there.



J. Mark Davis & Jane Hale Hopkins

For nearly two decades as president of the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, J. Mark Davis has demonstrated keen interest in and provided financial support for Phi Theta Kappa members.

In 2001, he supported the establishment of the Centennial Scholars program, marking the 100th anniversary of community colleges. This evolved into the New Century Scholars Program, which now recognizes up to 53 students annually with stipends of \$2,250 each. A 2017 grant from The Coca-Cola Foundation will expand the program further to also recognize the top 50 career-technical students in the country with a scholarship.

The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation also partners with Phi Theta Kappa to sponsor the Coca-Cola Academic Team, awarding 150 scholarships to Gold, Silver, and Bronze Scholars — a total of nearly \$200,000 annually.

Davis said the Foundation wanted to support students at associate degree-granting institutions for a number of reasons.

"It's a large number of students from all ages, backgrounds, and aspirations, often first-generation

college students," he said.

"Secondly, two-year college tuition costs allow us to reach far more students with meaningful awards — a \$1,000 scholarship has a real impact on tuition.

"Finally, we see Phi Theta Kappa members as students who will use our awards to complete their associate degrees and/or transfer to pursue their baccalaureate degrees."

In 2010, the Foundation announced they would provide \$150,000 in additional support, allowing Phi Theta Kappa to increase the number of \$1,000 Leaders of Promise Scholarships from 30 to 180 annually. In 2014, the Foundation earmarked 25 of

the 180 Leaders of Promise Scholarships to be awarded to members who are active-duty military or veterans.

"Seeing the success of so many students encouraged us to deepen our commitment," Davis said. "Students at associate degree-granting colleges, and particularly Phi Theta Kappa members, inspire me because of their aspirations — to learn more, do more, be more, and make a better community for us all."

Both The Coca-Cola Foundation and the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation have received the Alliance for Educational Excellence Award in recognition of their outstanding support. Davis was named an International Honorary Member in 2011 and has served as Treasurer of the Foundation Board of Trustees.

In August of 2017, Executive Vice President Jane Hale Hopkins was selected to succeed Davis upon his retirement in late 2018.

Hopkins joined the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation in 2001 and is now a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation Board of Trustees. As president-elect of the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, she stands poised to continue the partnership with Phi Theta Kappa that Davis began.

"I get to work with scholars who inspire me to continue to grow, explore the world, and see no limit to what my own contribution can be," Hopkins said. "We are lucky to celebrate people who push themselves beyond what they have been given to achieve great success."



Dr. Jack Guistwhite

In 1975, while an administrator at Florida Atlantic University, the late Dr. Jack Guistwhite established the first-ever transfer scholarship offered exclusively for members of Phi Theta Kappa.

"I remember in the old days, I would present the Florida Atlantic scholarship at the international convention, because it was the only one," he said. "Afterward I would have all kinds of people ask how Florida Atlantic was able to do this.

"I would tell them, and things just grew from there."

Other four-year colleges and universities followed Florida Atlantic University's lead, and today Phi Theta Kappa now boasts an ever-growing transfer scholarship partnership with more than 750 institutions of higher learning offering more than \$87 million in transfer scholarships to Society members.

After serving in World War II, Guistwhite returned to the University of Florida, graduated in 1947 with a bachelor of science degree in business administration, and joined the staff of the university registrar. In 1963, he was invited to be a part of creating a new institution, Florida Atlantic University, which opened its doors in 1964.

At FAU, Guistwhite served as the first community college relations officer in the state university system. The position put him in touch with community college students — Phi Theta Kappa members in particular. These contacts led him to establish the FAU/Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship Program, become the charter advisor of Alpha of Florida, one of the first Phi Theta Kappa university-based alumni associations, and serve as Florida's Alumni Regional Coordinator. Guistwhite was named an International Honorary Member in 1975 and served on Phi Theta Kappa's National Alumni Council, a forerunner of the Alumni Advisory Board.

He retired in 1982, after more than 35 years in the Florida State University System. Phi Theta Kappa celebrated Guistwhite's 20 years of service at the 1989 annual convention, where he was named Alumni Regional Coordinator Emeritus and the Guistwhite Scholarship Program named in his honor was unveiled.

The first class of Guistwhite Scholars was announced in 1992. Phi Theta Kappa selects 15 scholars annually to receive \$5,000 each in transfer scholarships. Since the program's founding, hundreds of students have received these scholarship funds to complete baccalaureate degrees.

Guistwhite attended the 2008 annual convention, where he was honored in a general session, took part in the presentation of the Guistwhite Scholars, and attended a reception with scholars.

Guistwhite and his wife Margaret were members of the Athena Society. He died in 2012 and she in 2017, but not before leaving an indelible legacy that would shape Phi Theta Kappa's future.



Dr. David H. Shinn

Over a span of 37 years in foreign service to the United States, Dr. David Shinn has been posted to some of the most volatile areas in the world and has coped with challenges ranging from famine to AIDS epidemics and terrorist activity.

He has served as ambassador to Ethiopia and Burkina Faso and has held posts at embassies in Lebanon, Kenya, Tanzania, Mauritania, Cameroon, and Sudan.

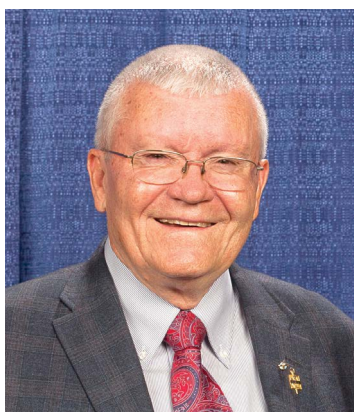
Now retired from government service, Shinn teaches at his baccalaureate alma mater, The George Washington University in Washington, D.C., where he is professor of international affairs at the Elliott School of International Affairs.

An international expert on African affairs, Shinn is a frequent guest news commentator and has testified before the U.S. Congress. He co-authored *China and Africa: A Century of Engagement* and *The Historical Dictionary of Ethiopia*.

He became a member of Phi Theta Kappa at Yakima Valley Community College in Washington and was named Phi Theta Kappa's Distinguished Alumnus in 1995.

"I never felt disadvantaged by attending a two-year college first," Shinn said. "I found that the better community college faculty were just as good as the faculty at The George Washington University."

He has served as a panelist for annual conventions and is a Trustee with the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation. Shinn believes one of the most rewarding aspects of his work with the Foundation has been helping to provide scholarships for members to complete their associate, baccalaureate, and graduate school degrees.



Fred Haise

Apollo 13 astronaut Fred Haise has logged 142 hours and 54 minutes in space, and he had his Phi Theta Kappa membership pin with him the entire time. The pin is now displayed at the Center for Excellence in Jackson, Mississippi, alongside a NASA patch from his uniform.

Haise was born in Biloxi, Mississippi, and attended Perkinston Junior College, where he was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa. He went on to receive a bachelor's degree with honors from the University of Oklahoma, and he holds an honorary doctorate from Western Michigan University.

He has received numerous honors, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Apollo 13 launched on April 11, 1970, with Haise on board as the lunar module pilot. He was supposed to be the sixth man to walk on the moon, but an explosion on the service module caused NASA to abort the mission. The mission was immortalized in the 1995 film *Apollo 13*, directed by Ron Howard.

Haise was one of two alumni to receive Phi Theta Kappa's first Distinguished Alumni Awards in 1970. He spoke at the annual convention in Seattle and at the Honors Institute in Boston, both in 2011.



The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has given \$41.3 billion in grants since its inception in 1997 to people and organizations across the United States and in more than a hundred countries around the world. In 2011, one of those grantees was Phi Theta Kappa.

The nearly \$3 million grant — the largest in the Society's history — expanded the reach of CollegeFish.org, Phi Theta Kappa's free college completion and transfer planning program. The website connects college students with their best-fit four-year universities and helps them find transfer scholarships.

The grant allowed PTK to launch the program in two- and four-year colleges and universities in five target states: Alabama, Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, and Washington. Today, the program is available to all students who wish to transfer to a four-year college.

In the United States, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation "seeks to ensure that all people — especially those with the fewest resources — have access to the opportunities they need to succeed in

school and life." According to the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), 58 percent of two-year college students receive some kind of financial aid.

For Phi Theta Kappa, this meant connecting associate degree-seeking students with a tool that helps them take the right classes and stay on track to completing a degree and successfully transferring.

It also meant helping those students find the universities best fit for their needs — and helping them identify scholarships to cover costs.

To date, more than 750

colleges and universities have established \$87 million in transfer scholarships exclusively for Phi Theta Kappa members, although non-members can utilize the program and find scholarships as well.

Students are asked to answer two questions about their educational goals — their anticipated transfer date and their anticipated major at their four-year school. Students then create a profile to outline demographic and educational information and to set transfer preferences. This information works to help CollegeFish find the student's best match for a four-year college.

Colleges and universities have benefitted too. The program aids associate degree-granting colleges in reaching their goals of increasing student persistence, graduation, and transfer rates to senior colleges. And, it assists senior colleges to effectively identify, advise, and recruit transfer students.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has a long history of supporting community colleges. The foundation has given grants to individual colleges in many states, state college systems, college foundations, and organizations like AACC, the Association of Community College Trustees, and the League for Innovation in the Community College.



Dr. Dale Parnell

The late Dr. Dale Parnell, who served as President of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) from 1981-1991, was the first AACC President to serve on Phi Theta Kappa's Board of Directors.

In a 2014 interview, Parnell recalled many successful joint ventures between the two organizations.

"When AACC and Phi Theta Kappa put their heads together on a project, that cooperation can release a powerful energy aimed at stressing excellence in community colleges," he said. "Phi Theta Kappa has been key in helping put higher education within reach of thousands and thousands of individuals and doing that in an excellent way."

Parnell worked tirelessly to advocate for the development of the community college system in his native Oregon, and he became the founding president of Lane Community College in 1964. As AACC President he served under five United States presidents, working closest with George H.W. Bush on multiple occasions as an advisor on education issues.

Parnell's 1985 book, *The Neglected Majority*, provided a framework for AACC to develop legislative language for a tech prep associate degree program that would build stronger relationships between high schools and community colleges.

He also helped to create "Building Communities: A Vision for a New Century," a report on the future of community colleges released in 1988. Parnell received the AACC Leadership Award in 1993.

Phi Theta Kappa's Parnell Scholarship, given in his honor, covers registration expenses for a Faculty Scholar who has not previously attended a Phi Theta Kappa annual convention.



Jim McHale

Jim McHale moved to Mississippi from Michigan to lead the Woodward Hines Education Foundation (WHEF) in Jackson. He previously worked for 21 years with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

In his role as president and CEO, he is leading the charge to work with both private and public sectors to encourage higher graduation rates among Mississippi students and to support their successful transitions to college. And, ultimately, he wants to see more Mississippians complete college credentials.

McHale and WHEF have partnered with Phi Theta Kappa in several ways. In 2016, the foundation awarded a \$50,000 grant to PTK to fund membership scholarships for 755 low-income college students in Mississippi. A year later, 13 percent of

scholarship recipients had graduated with a certificate or associate degree, and 87 percent remained enrolled in college.

Phi Theta Kappa staff members volunteer with WHEF's Get2College initiative to help Mississippi high school students and their parents complete the FAFSA for college funding.

And, most recently, the two organizations launched the Get2College Corps — an intern scholarship program that will allow 17 Phi Theta Kappa members at 10 Mississippi two-year colleges to coach high school students in completing the FAFSA. Each intern will receive a \$5,000 scholarship.

The goal is to increase FAFSA completion statewide and to increase FAFSA completion by the March 31 priority deadline for the MS HELP grant, the only need-based financial aid in the state.

Spencer Gehring

Before Phi Theta Kappa, Spencer Gehring already considered himself a smart, artistic kid. Less than a decade after his experience with Phi Theta Kappa, he was working in 20 countries and had generated more than \$100 million of net income for a multinational corporation.

"It (PTK) changed my life in every way — to the extent that I really can't describe it without describing my entire life," he said. "PTK was like a fork in the road where I was trying to decide between left and right, and PTK said, 'Why not up?' "

Gehring became a member of the Alpha Epsilon Rho Chapter at Bellevue Community College and was elected National President in 1990.

After graduating Cum Laude from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute with a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering, Gehring soon worked his way up to executive vice president of growth for GE Rail Services.

"PTK is where I realized that the law of diminishing returns does not apply to learning or leadership," he said. "Not only that you can continue learning forever, but you can learn faster and faster."

After serving as senior vice president of operational excellence for PHH Mortgage, Gehring then co-founded Excelar Group, LLC, a strategic consulting firm in Chicago.

"PTK instilled in me a fascination with leadership that I have never lost," he said. "I've decided it would be fun to spend the second half of my life demystifying business leadership for people interested in making the world a better place."

In 2016, Gehring moved back to his native Bellevue, Washington, to found Gehring Enterprises, and now he's taking a sabbatical to write a book on business leadership. The working title is *Get Better Faster: Twice the Leader in Half the Time*.

"I'm looking for a new challenge — the challenge of changing the world with ideas," Gehring said. "I've never wanted to be the next Jack Welch.



"The only two people I've ever wanted to be were Evel Knievel and Leonardo DaVinci."

Of his donations to the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation, Gehring said he doesn't really feel like he's giving back, but sees it more as under-repaying a very large debt.

"There is nothing that has been valuable to me in the business world that I wasn't exposed to first, in some way, at Phi Theta Kappa," he said. "There are vastly more similarities between leading a Phi Theta Kappa chapter and leading a business than there are differences."

Gehring thinks the key is the way Phi Theta Kappa thinks about leadership — that it is something to be studied, something impossible to master that is worth the effort of trying to master.

"Many people in business try to be leaders without making the effort to become leaders," he said. "I learned in PTK that mastery is in continuously 'becoming.' "

Barry Reynolds

Barry Reynolds served as National President in 1983-84. He was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College and served as keynote speaker when the Mu Chapter celebrated its 85th anniversary in 2011.

He was a member and chair of the Alumni Advisory Council, and he received the Board of Directors Alumni Achievement Award in 1997. Reynolds was active in Phi Theta Kappa's Key Opportunity campaign to build the Center for Excellence, and he is a member of PTK's Athena Society.

Reynolds received a bachelor's degree from the University of Southern Mississippi and a law degree from the University of Oklahoma. He is a practicing attorney in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Dr. Alex Johnson

As president of Cuyahoga Community College in Ohio, Dr. Alex Johnson has been giving financial support to eligible Phi Theta Kappa members for more than a decade, providing enough funding to reimburse up to 300 students college-wide per year for half of the \$90 membership fee.

"The students are extraordinary, and excellence is what we're all about," he said. "Scholarship, leadership, and civic engagement — our members hold these principles up for other students to follow, and they're important in terms of student success and completion."

Johnson is a member of Phi Theta Kappa's Presidential Advisory Board.

Dr. Jacob Farbman

Dr. Jacob Farbman was inducted into the Alpha Pi Omega Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Salem Community College in 1994.

In his role as director of communications for the New Jersey Council of Community Colleges, he oversees the annual celebration for the New Jersey All-State Academic Team.

Additionally, Farbman has helped New Jersey college presidents raise nearly \$1 million annually in scholarships from New Jersey's senior institutions. He has also been instrumental in collaborating with New Jersey chapters for NJC4, the statewide Community College Completion Corps initiative.

Farbman received the Board of Directors Alumni Achievement Award in 2017.

Matt Jones

Matt Jones was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa at Illinois Central Community College in 1984 and was elected North Central Vice President just three weeks later.

After law school, he spoke at the annual convention and regional meetings, and he served on the Alumni Advisory Council. Jones met his wife, member Sandy Gallant, at a Florida Region Convention.

"Whoever said that you can 'never go home' was never a member of Phi Theta Kappa," he said.

Matt and Sandy have both received "40 Leaders Under 40" civic awards in Peoria, Illinois, where Matt is associate director of the Illinois Appellate Prosecutors Office. He received the Board of Directors Alumni Achievement Award in 2008.

Thomas Obee

Thomas Obee was inducted into the Lambda Mu Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa in 1962. He has served as advisor of the Lambda Mu Chapter, as Michigan Regional Coordinator, and as an alumni advisor.

During his time as an advisor, Obee received the Distinguished Advisor Award, the Continued Excellence Award, and the Board of Directors Alumni Achievement Award.

He is the Michigan Regional Coordinator Emeritus and was named Advisor Emeritus in 2014.

The Michigan Region named the Tom Obee Scholarship in his honor. This \$250 scholarship is presented annually to the member who best exemplifies the Hallmarks of Phi Theta Kappa.



Marlene Hurst Cupit & Pat Lowery

As a community college graduate, Hurst Review Founder and President Marlene Hurst Cupit understood students and their financial need. So, when the opportunity came to collaborate with Phi Theta Kappa to benefit members, she and CEO Pat Lowery jumped at the chance.

Hurst Review is an education services company based in Brookhaven, Mississippi, and in 2016 Phi Theta Kappa partnered with them to provide the first scholarship to assist associate degree students with certification costs.

"Hurst Review is excited to be able to offer this scholarship program in partnership with Phi Theta Kappa," Cupit said. "Hurst has a number of employees who have been members of Phi Theta Kappa, and we know first-hand that the Society works hard to provide benefits to its members."

The Hurst Review NCLEX® Scholarship Program provides scholarships to 25 Phi Theta Kappa members annually. Each recipient receives Hurst study materials and a cash award to cover NCLEX® exam fees. In addition, Hurst provides a \$50 discount on NCLEX® study materials for all Phi Theta Kappa members.

The NCLEX® is a standardized exam given by each state's board of nursing to determine if RN or LPN/LVN candidates are competent for entry-level nursing practice.

"Hurst's mission has always been to help nursing students succeed by improving clinical judgement skills through the best NCLEX® preparation course available," Lowery said. "Together, Hurst and Phi Theta Kappa can provide the resources required to begin a successful career in nursing."



Pattie Van Atter

Pattie Van Atter, coordinator of instructional support services at Delaware Technical Community College's Wilmington Campus, has served Phi Theta Kappa at nearly every level — and it began with a gift from her grandmother, who paid her membership fee.

"The most rewarding experience for me has been witnessing the continued success of our members," she said. "Assisting others to change consequences into opportunities has been my way of giving back, and that is what motivates me to continue my journey."

She was inducted into the Alpha Psi Pi Chapter at Gloucester County College in New Jersey in 1998. She was a chapter officer, was named to the All-New Jersey Academic Team, and won her college's President's Medallion for Service and Leadership.

Van Atter attended Temple University on a Phi Theta Kappa transfer scholarship.

As an alumna, she helped charter the award-winning Middle States Regional Alumni Association — she served as president in 2003-2004. She served on Phi Theta Kappa's Alumni Advisory Council, and in 2013 she received the Board of Directors Alumni Achievement Award.

Van Atter is advisor to the award-winning Alpha Zeta Kappa Chapter and is the Middle States Regional Coordinator. She also serves as vice chair of the Phi Theta Kappa Board of Directors.



Valerie Baldwin

Valerie Baldwin was inducted into the Chi Alpha Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Seward County Community College in Kansas and served as Phi Theta Kappa's National President in 1980-1981.

She was unanimously selected by the 2015-2016 International Officers as the Alumni Representative for Phi Theta Kappa's Board of Directors. Baldwin was previously a member of the Phi Theta Kappa

Foundation Board of Trustees and is a foundation donor.

She recently started her own firm, Baldwin Consulting, in Washington, D.C. Baldwin previously served as the staff assistant to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Homeland Security. She was the assistant secretary of the Army (Financial Management and Comptroller) from 2004-2006 and special assistant to the Secretary of the Army until April 2007.

Baldwin also served eight years on the Appropriations Committee of the United States House of Representatives, spending nearly four years as clerk of the Military Construction Subcommittee.

In addition, she served as a staff assistant on the Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Subcommittees; as legislative counsel to the Housing Subcommittee of the Financial Services Committee; and as a trial attorney at the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Earlier in her career, Baldwin was a legislative assistant on the staffs of Senator Nancy Landon Kassebaum and Senator John Glenn.

She received her law degree from the University of Kansas School of Law, her master's degree from the London School of Economics and Political Science, her bachelor's degree from Wichita State University, and her associate degree from Seward County Community College.

Baldwin has also served on the Board of Directors of DataPath, Inc., a subsidiary of Rockwell Collins, and on the Board of Directors of the Military Child Education Coalition.



J. Noah Brown

For Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) President and CEO J. Noah Brown, it's all about student success, and the partnership between Phi Theta Kappa and ACCT has been a long and successful one.

At ACCT, Brown provides national leadership on behalf of more than 6,000 elected and appointed officials governing 1,200 community colleges throughout the United States. Much of his work has focused on strengthening the strategic connections between community college boards and the array of national and state organizations important to supporting the mission of community colleges. In addition to its focus on advocacy, ACCT also provides trustee education and board leadership services to its member boards.

ACCT was the first of six national partner organizations (including Phi Theta Kappa) to organize a Community College Completion Summit to create a national awareness of the completion initiative and the degree of urgency with which it must be addressed.

Phi Theta Kappa presented AACCT with the Alliance for Educational Excellence Award in 2012, in recognition of its engagement with college trustees to develop strategies regarding their role in effectively measuring student success.

That year, ACCT also made a \$5,000 donation to support Phi Theta Kappa's Oberndorf Lifeline to Completion Scholarship Fund.

In 2017, Phi Theta Kappa presented its inaugural Board of Trustees Awards to four colleges during ACCT's Annual Leadership Congress. The new award recognizes boards of trustees/directors who demonstrate a strong level of support for their local Phi Theta Kappa chapters.

Recipients of the 2017 Trustees awards assisted Phi Theta Kappa on their campuses by providing funding for chapter programs and travel, attending chapter events such as induction ceremonies or meetings, providing recognition for chapter advisors/members, and inviting Phi Theta Kappa members to present at Trustee meetings or serve as student representatives to the Board.

ACCT continues to serve as a leader in higher education, and Brown is recognized as an award-winning higher education policy and governance expert, author, and educator. He has served as president and CEO of ACCT since 2005 and has worked for the association since 1996. Brown also serves on the faculty for the Doctorate in Community College Leadership program at Ferris State University in Michigan. His inaugural book, *First in the World: Community Colleges and America's Future*, won the 2013 Bellwether Book Award.

Brown has earned a reputation as a popular speaker at a wide array of events, including college commencement and convocation ceremonies, international conferences, and state college association conventions. He has been featured in *PARADE* magazine's "Intelligence Report" and has contributed to a number of publications. Currently Brown serves as a contributing columnist to *FE News*, one of the United Kingdom's foremost further-education publications, and is a regular commentator for Higher Education Talk Radio.

Dr. Gerardo de los Santos, Dr. Kay McClenney, & Dr. Evelyn Waiwaiole

In 2010, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society signed Democracy's Colleges: Call to Action to improve college completion rates. The Society was the only student organization asked to sign.

This was a pledge to increase student completion rates by 50 percent over the next decade, by 2020. It was a call for "leaders from every sector and constituency of every college" to join in this work and led to the creation of PTK's Community College Completion Corps.

This was an effort of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), and five other higher education leaders joined in this commitment to college students: Dr. George Boggs of AACC (pg. 15), J. Noah Brown of the Association of Community College Trustees (pg. 32), Dr. Gerardo de los Santos of the League for Innovation in the Community College, Dr. Kay McClenney of the Center for Community College Student Engagement, and Dr. Evelyn Waiwaiole of the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD).



Dr. Gerardo de los Santos

In 2010, de los Santos was president and CEO of the League for Innovation in the Community College, an Arizona-based nonprofit membership organization dedicated to cultivating innovation in the community college setting.

De los Santos stepped down in 2016. He had worked for the League for 17 years, first as vice president and chief operating officer, before assuming leadership in 2006. He has represented community colleges at the White House multiple times and serves on several national advisory, foundation, and editorial boards. He was also given the International Leadership Award from NISOD.



Dr. Kay McClenney

McClenney was founding director of the Center for Community College Student Engagement at the University of Texas at Austin. She is a special assistant to the AACC president and CEO, an AACC senior adviser, and a leadership coach at Achieving the Dream.

During her career, McClenney has worked as a community college educator and administrator, and she has consulted with educational institutions and higher education systems, state government, and professional associations.

McClenney has also received the International Leadership Award from NISOD, and she received the National Leadership Award from AACC. She co-chaired AACC's 21st Century Commission on the Future of Community Colleges.



Dr. Evelyn Waiwaiole

In 2010, Waiwaiole was the Suanne Davis Roueche NISOD director and a lecturer in the College of Education at the University of Texas. She is now the executive director of the Center for Community College Student Engagement at the University of Texas at Austin.

Waiwaiole was recognized as a 2002-2003 Associates Fellow with the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. She has served on various national advisory committees and has authored articles related to student success, retention, and persistence. In 2009, UT's Community College Leadership Program recognized her as a Distinguished Graduate.



Dr. Daniel J. Phelan

In all he does, Dr. Daniel Phelan sees student success as his ultimate goal. He has served as president of Jackson College in Michigan since 2001 and is chairman of the American Association of Community Colleges Board of Directors.

Phelan gives regularly to the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation in support of scholarships for members, which he views as a way to give back for the financial support he received as a college student. And, he advocates for and supports the chapter on his campus.

In his position on the Phi Theta Kappa Board of Directors, Phelan promoted a change in the Society's bylaws to allow incarcerated students to become members — a motion approved in 2017. Jackson College is one of 67

colleges and universities nationwide participating in the Second Chance Pell pilot program, which provides Pell Grant assistance to incarcerated individuals likely to be released in the next five years. About 550 students from 10 facilities across Michigan are enrolled in the college's Prison Education Initiative.

Phelan is also a member of the PTK Presidential Advisory Board. His book, *Unrelenting Change, Innovation, and Risk: Forging the Next Generation of Community Colleges*, was published in 2016.



Marvin & Meira Langsam

Marvin Langsam taught psychology at Miami Dade College for 30 years, serving as director of the honors program and advisor of the college's trail-blazing Phi Theta Kappa chapter, Mu Epsilon.

Under his leadership the chapter won numerous awards, saw members elected to national office, and developed programs later adapted for international use, including sister chapters and regional Honors Institutes.

Marvin inspired a legion of students to earn the grades to join Phi Theta Kappa, stay in school, complete their degrees, transfer, and consistently aim for success. He even enrolled in classes at Miami Dade for the sole purpose of achieving full membership in Phi Theta Kappa for himself.

Meira was attending Central Florida Community College and was a member of the Kappa Nu Chapter when she and Marvin met at a Phi Theta Kappa conference. They were married in 1993. Meira completed her business degree at Florida Atlantic University on a Phi Theta Kappa scholarship and was employed at Miami Dade, serving as co-advisor for Mu Epsilon.

While they are no longer associated with Miami Dade College, they remain very involved in Phi Theta Kappa, supporting the Society financially and volunteering at annual conventions.

Marvin has been recognized as a Distinguished Advisor, received the Board of Directors Alumni Achievement Award in 2010, and was named Advisor Emeritus in 2014.

"The Phi Theta Kappa world is unique," he said. "Through Phi Theta Kappa I developed relationships and friendships beyond any organization I have ever been involved with — it's really a family."



Dr. Lillie McCain

Dr. Lillie McCain, former advisor to the Alpha Omicron Iota Chapter at Mott Community College in Michigan, has been a driving force behind Phi Theta Kappa's Leadership Development Studies Program.

She was born in Teoc, a small community in Carroll County in the Mississippi Delta. A descendant of slaves owned by the family of Arizona Senator John McCain, she became an outspoken figure in the Civil Rights Movement. She marched for desegregation. She was arrested. And, in her senior year of high school in 1968, she decided to attend a previously all-white school.

"I was being burdened by the idea that I'd put so much energy into the desegregation movement and then I didn't go," she said. "It's not something I'll forget."

At 6 feet 1 inch tall, McCain had been a basketball player at her old school. Now, she couldn't play. At the pre-prom dinner, she was seated with the teachers, not

her classmates. The prom itself was held at a private, segregated club, so she could not attend.

Still, she held her head high. She attended Tougaloo College, a historically black university in Mississippi, where she continued to protest. Her experience was published in *Seventeen* magazine. Then, she attended graduate school in Kansas — an all-white school — and completed her studies as a psychology major.

McCain was offered a job at Mott Community College in 1975. At 23 years old, she was a full-time psychology professor — some of her students were older than her. She felt lost, so she took leave and joined the military. She didn't quite "find herself," but she did learn a lot.

"It taught me to appreciate the freedom of expression as a professor, and the confidence it placed in me helped me to develop a way to teach my students in a way they could grasp," she said.

McCain returned to Mott in 1980 and was "transformed from a lecturer into a teacher." A few years later, her office partner, the Phi Theta

Kappa advisor, asked her to come to Mississippi to PTK Headquarters for leadership training. There, she met Dr. Jo Marshall (pg. 49) and kicked off more than 20 years of co-facilitating the Leadership Development Instructor Certification Seminars.

Hundreds of college faculty members and administrators, as well as leadership development professionals, have been certified to teach Phi Theta Kappa's Leadership Development curriculum under the direction of McCain, Marshall, or both. And with each session, McCain still gets excited.

"It becomes very personal for the person participating and, very often, gratifying," she said. "My approach in my own classroom changed. It made teaching more meaningful."

McCain is now retired from teaching, though she continues to facilitate Leadership Instructor Certification Seminars. She lives in South Carolina.

Brady Surles

Brady Surles has enjoyed a long and productive PTK journey since he became a member at Bluefield Junior College in 1957.

In the 60 years since his induction, he has served as an advisor at Southwest Virginia Community College, a Faculty Scholar, Virginia Regional Coordinator, an Honors Committee member, and on the Society's Board of Directors.

Surles received numerous honors before retiring as Virginia's Regional Coordinator in 2007 and becoming Virginia Regional Coordinator Emeritus. He was named a Giles Distinguished Advisor, a Distinguished Regional Coordinator, and a Mosal Scholar, and he received the 2006 Board of Directors Alumni Achievement Award. He was named an Advisor Emeritus in 2014.

Dr. Joe May

Dr. Joe May is chancellor of the Dallas County Community College District in Texas, one of the largest community college systems in the state, serving more than 3 million people.

When he noticed that just over 10 percent of eligible students were accepting their Phi Theta Kappa invitations, May set aside \$100,000 in the district's annual budget to cover financial barriers to membership.

He previously worked as dean of student services at Navarro College in Texas, where he saw the close ties Phi Theta Kappa members showed to academic achievement and leadership.

In 2014, as immediate past president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, May was named a Phi Theta Kappa Distinguished Community College State Director.

Eugene Cook

Eugene Cook is a former justice of the Texas State Supreme Court. He attended the University of Houston, where he joined Phi Theta Kappa. In 1958, he was elected National President.

He was chair of Phi Theta Kappa's first Board of Directors, a position he held for six years. In 1988, he was named a Distinguished Alumnus. He was actively involved with the organization for more than 30 years.

In 2011, Justice Cook received the prestigious George Washington Medal Award, the highest award given by the Freedoms Foundation at the Valley Forge National Awards Program, joining such past recipients as Walt Disney and John Wayne.

Lynn Gurganus

Through his career at the University of Montevallo in Alabama, Lynn Gurganus led the university to establish transfer scholarships for PTK members, sponsor booths at annual convention College Transfer Fairs, and host events and activities for the Alabama Region.

Gurganus was inducted into the Omicron Upsilon Chapter at Alexander City State Junior College in Alabama (later Central Alabama Community College) and was chosen the college's outstanding graduate. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Montevallo and was advisor to Gamma of Alabama, Montevallo's PTK Alumni Association.

He received the PTK Board of Directors Alumni Achievement Award in 1999 and is now retired.

Dr. Ruth Randall

Dr. Ruth Randall was inducted into the Alpha Iota Gamma Chapter at Johnson County Community College in Kansas in 1990 and later returned to her chapter as the advisor in 1995. She became the Regional Coordinator of the then-Kansas Region in 2003.

As Regional Coordinator, Randall developed an Advisory Committee for equal representation among the three districts in the region. She also established the Regional Advisor Education Conference to educate new chapter advisors. And, she helped charter three alumni associations in Kansas.

Randall was awarded the Phi Theta Kappa Board of Directors Alumni Achievement Award in 2009, and she was named an Advisor Emeritus in 2014.

Dr. Walter Bumphus

Dr. Walter Bumphus is president and CEO of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) and has supported Phi Theta Kappa in numerous ways throughout his tenure.

Bumphus previously served on Phi Theta Kappa's Board of Directors and continues to participate in the annual presentation of the New Century Scholars and All-USA Academic Team at the AACC convention. A longtime partner of Phi Theta Kappa, AACC supports these scholarship programs and also provided a \$5,000 gift for the Oberndorf Lifeline to Completion Scholarship.

"A Phi Theta Kappa chapter provides the president and academic leadership of the college an opportunity to change the focus of campus discussions from one of developmental education, low completion scores, and low graduation rates to a conversation of college excellence, faculty and student excellence, and a culture of student success," he said.

Democracy's Colleges: Call to Action and the Community College Completion Challenge were among the first major initiatives Bumphus became involved with upon becoming AACC's president and CEO. He gave Phi Theta Kappa a seat at the table to formulate a global plan addressing college completion, and he has been a strong advocate of the student-led Community College Completion Corps (C4). He also believes Phi Theta Kappa has been instrumental in moving the needle of student success.

"Phi Theta Kappa helps students focus on finishing what they start," he said. "The commitment of Phi Theta Kappa chapters to C4 has helped not only students, but faculty and administration to be laser-focused on college completion for its students."

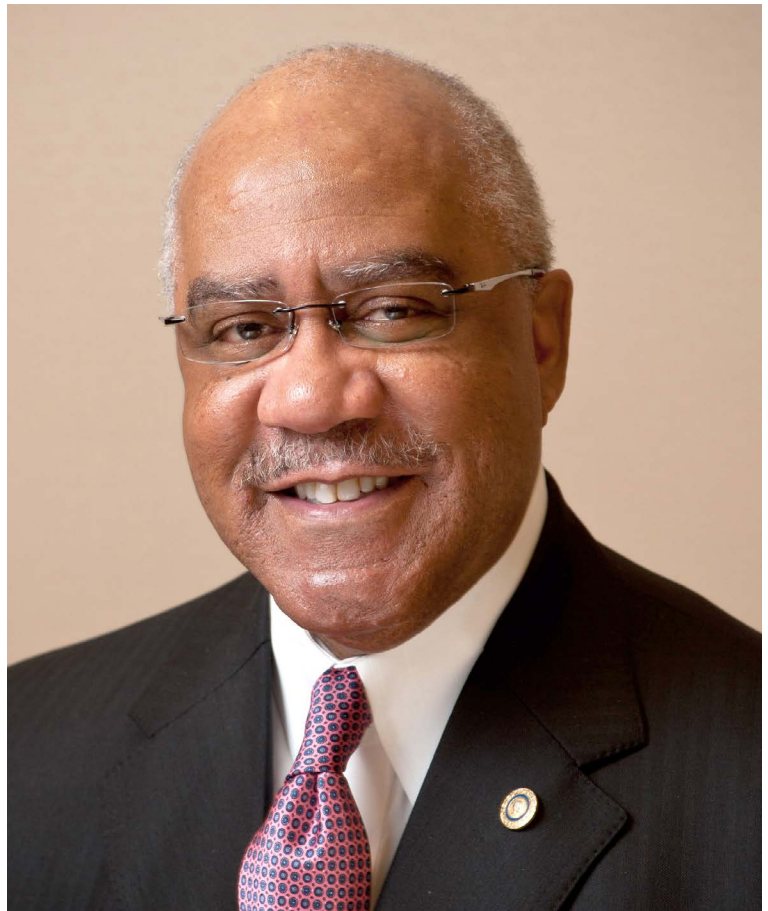
Bumphus previously served as a professor in the Community College Leadership Program and as chair of the Department of Educational Administration at the University of Texas at Austin. He also held the A.M. Aikin Regents Endowed Chair in Junior and Community College Education Leadership.

During his term as president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, Bumphus was instrumental in establishing the All-Louisiana Academic Team.

In 1992, he was recognized as a distinguished graduate from both Murray State University and the University of Texas at Austin. Bumphus is one of the few educational leaders to receive the National CEO of the Year Award, chair the AACC Board of Directors, and receive the AACC National Leadership Award. In 2013, he was named an International Honorary Member of Phi Theta Kappa.

"When I see what Phi Theta Kappa chapters and regions are doing, I am more than impressed," he said. "I've read about their efforts, and it's remarkable to see their energy and commitment.

"Their efforts are reaching all over the country. It makes me proud to see the wonderful things that are happening."





Leanne Jardine

Leanne Jardine has held just about every role there is in Phi Theta Kappa over the years — member, alumna, advisor, and Regional Coordinator. Although she formally stepped down as chapter advisor when she retired from Herkimer County Community College in 2006, Jardine hasn't stopped giving back.

Inducted into the Lambda Beta Chapter at Mohawk Valley Community College in Utica, New York, she followed a path that led her to serve as a chapter advisor and later coordinator for the New York Region. She was named an Advisor Emeritus in 2014.

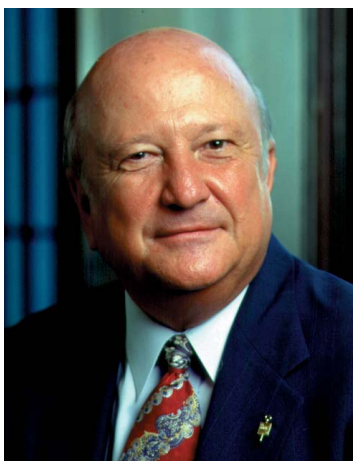
In 2002, Jardine received the Board of Directors Alumni Achievement Award in recognition of her outstanding leadership in the Society, with special emphasis on her contributions to the alumni program, the honors program, and other special projects.

As New York Regional Coordinator, Jardine developed a model program for successful utilization of alumni associations to promote and support the mission of chapters and regions.

She also played a leading role in coordinating the Phi Theta Kappa effort to raise more than \$15,000 for the Borough of Manhattan Community College, which was damaged during the terrorist attacks on September 11.

Jardine and her former husband, Richard Jardine, endowed an Honors Institute lecture. She continues to support the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation and is a member of the Athena Society. She also helps judge the *Nota Bene* literary competition.

"Any contribution is a way of saying thank you, a way to encourage others to do likewise, and a reaffirmation in your belief in the mission of Phi Theta Kappa," Jardine said.



Dr. Douglas W. Foard

Phi Theta Kappa's founders modeled their new honor society after Phi Beta Kappa, but the two organizations had little contact until 1992.

While Phi Theta Kappa and Phi Beta Kappa share commonalities, the two societies are very different. Phi Beta Kappa's chapters are located only at four-year liberal arts institutions, and membership is conferred upon students as they near graduation.

But the two organizations share an appreciation for learning, and that led Dr. Doug Foard to forge a relationship between Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Theta Kappa. A member of Phi Beta Kappa, he became secretary of the Society after serving as a program officer with the National Endowment for the Humanities.

During Foard's tenure, some Phi Beta Kappa chapters amended their membership requirements to admit transfer students. He was named an International Honorary Member of Phi Theta Kappa and served as a member of the Honors Program Committee. His wife, Ann Sova, is a former Phi Theta Kappa chapter advisor, whom he met at an Honors Institute.

Foard moderated many Phi Theta Kappa annual convention debates and spoke at a convention and two Honors Institutes. Now retired, he also previously served as a Trustee of the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation.

"I was first attracted to Phi Theta Kappa because of their outstanding programs that fostered student success," he said. "I believed firmly, and continue to believe, in what Phi Theta Kappa is doing at associate degree-granting colleges."



Ray & Jackie Hites

Robert Hites, Jackie & Ray Hites

Brothers Robert and Ray Hites left a lasting legacy that will benefit Phi Theta Kappa members for years to come.

The story began years ago, when Robert Hites, a longtime executive with Ralston Purina, became an adjunct teacher at St. Louis Community College's Meramec Campus after his retirement. He was deeply impressed by the students and the persistence they showed despite financial obstacles to earning a college degree.

Robert established the Hites Family Community College Scholarship Foundation in 1991, and after his death his brother Ray became chairman. As the Foundation grew and prospered, Ray and his fellow trustees found themselves overwhelmed.

Then one of the trustees had an idea to approach community colleges with a challenge grant. That idea worked well, and that might have been the end of the

story. But in 2007 one of the board members, Dr. Paul Gianini, a former president of Valencia Community College in Florida, told them about Phi Theta Kappa, an organization doing the same thing they were doing.

Ray contacted Phi Theta Kappa, was invited to the Center for Excellence, and the rest, as they say, is history. He called the partnership between Phi Theta Kappa and the Hites Family Community College Scholarship Foundation a "perfect match."

That match has provided a scholarship endowment of \$2.3 million to fund the Hites Transfer Scholarships, awards of \$7,500 to at least 10 members annually for baccalaureate studies.

At Phi Theta Kappa's 2008 convention, the Hites Family Foundation announced their challenge grant to establish a \$1 million scholarship endowment by matching funds raised by the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation two to one.

A year later, Ray and other Hites Family Foundation Trustees returned to the Phi Theta Kappa Convention. The audience cheered the news that the Foundation had raised \$350,000

to meet the first Hites Challenge, then gave a standing ovation as Ray announced a second \$1 million challenge, which was met in 2010.

In 2009, Ray accepted the Alliance for Educational Excellence's Distinguished Partner Award, saluting the Hites Foundation's support of higher education. In 2011, the Hites Trustees dissolved their Foundation and gifted remaining funds to Phi Theta Kappa. Ray became a Trustee of the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation, serving until his death in 2015.

Fellow Foundation Trustees praised Ray as a remarkable individual who made an incredible impact on the lives of Phi Theta Kappa members. Today the Hites Scholarship program remains Phi Theta Kappa's largest award.

Ray's widow, Jackie, is now carrying on this family's legacy of philanthropy by serving as a Phi Theta Kappa Foundation Trustee. She was often by Ray's side at annual conventions as members approached to thank them for the scholarships they'd received.



Allison Jones

Allison Jones is the vice president, advocacy, marketing for Cengage Learning, although she first became involved with Phi Theta Kappa while working at Pearson Higher Education.

Jones was instrumental in encouraging members to apply for the Pearson Student Advisory Board and establishing the Pearson Scholarship for Higher Education, which awards up to 10 scholarships of \$5,000 each, a total of \$50,000 in scholarships annually. Pearson also provides each recipient with a mentor and complimentary access to textbooks and digital access codes.

Now at Cengage, Jones is still stepping up to support Phi Theta Kappa members. Cengage is an education and technology company that serves the higher education, K-12, professional, library, and workforce training markets worldwide.

In her role, Jones develops advocacy programs that help Cengage's higher education customers, including the Higher Ed Faculty Community, Cengage Partners' Network, and the Cengage Student Ambassador Program.

In 2016, Cengage committed \$12,000 to support Phi Theta Kappa's newest scholarship program to put membership in reach for more community college students across the country. Three hundred Golden Opportunity scholarships will be granted annually through the generosity of Cengage, Phi Theta Kappa members, advisors, alumni, corporate donors, and friends.

"Our north star at Cengage is supporting students by providing resources that build confidence, tenacity, and momentum to achieve their goals," Jones said. "Phi Theta Kappa shares a deep commitment to making learning accessible for all, and we are pleased to support community college scholars on their academic journey."



Wes Moore

Wes Moore became a member of the Delta Epsilon Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Valley Forge Military College in Pennsylvania, serving as chapter president, student body president, and regimental commander. He also completed the Phi Theta Kappa Leadership Development Studies course.

While a Valley Forge cadet, Moore was a member of a Phi Theta Kappa Convention Color Guard. He later served as a panelist for convention speaker Madeleine Albright and has spoken at both the annual convention and Honors Institute. Moore is a former Trustee of the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation and was named Distinguished Alumnus in 2012.

He graduated from Johns Hopkins University and received a Master of Letters degree from Oxford University, which he attended as a Rhodes Scholar. Moore was a United States Army Captain and served in the elite 1st Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, in Afghanistan.

As a White House Fellow from 2006-2007, he served as a special assistant to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. Moore was named one of *Ebony* magazine's "Top 30 Leaders Under 30" for 2007 and *Crain's New York Business*' "40 Under 40 Rising Stars" in 2009.

His New York Times best-seller, *The Other Wes Moore*, tells the story of two young men with similar backgrounds and shared names, the different paths they took, and why. Moore is also the author of *Discovering Wes Moore*, *The Work*, and co-author of *This Way Home*.

He is a frequent speaker/commentator and is chief executive officer of the Robin Hood Foundation.

Diane Eisenberg

Diane Eisenberg is a higher education consultant who helped secure grants to support some of Phi Theta Kappa's biggest initiatives: the Leadership Development Studies Program and Preparing Tomorrow's Science and Math Teachers at Community Colleges.

As president of Eisenberg & Associates, she oversaw Phi Theta Kappa's Washington, D.C. office.

Leadership Development Studies Program

In 1990, the Leadership Development Studies Program was launched with support from a \$1.8 million grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The Foundation was founded in 1930 by breakfast cereal pioneer Will Keith Kellogg and is among the largest philanthropic foundations in the country.

The Foundation recognized the program as one of only eight exemplary leadership development programs in higher education. Selection was based upon effectiveness, philosophy, sustainability, comprehensiveness and targeted training, development, and support for program facilitators.

The Leadership Development Studies curriculum uses excerpts from ancient and contemporary classic literature to deliver a diverse, interdisciplinary approach to leadership. The course has been taught in more than 700 institutions in the United States and internationally.

Although designed to serve the specific needs of community college students whose prior exposure to leadership opportunities has been limited, the course has also been used by other organizations, most notably the International Public Safety Leadership and Ethics Institute (IPSLEI).

Preparing Tomorrow's Science and Math Teachers at Community Colleges

In 2001, a \$440,000-plus grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) established "Preparing Tomorrow's Science and Math Teachers: The Community

College Response," a national mentoring project to expand the role of two-year colleges in providing teacher preparation programs for future K-12 science and math teachers.

This was a response to recommendations put forth in the NSF report, "Investing in Tomorrow's Teachers: The Integral Role of Two-Year Colleges in the Science and Mathematics Preparation of Prospective Teachers."

The program included a national competition to select 18 participating community colleges; two National Teacher Preparation Conferences; and mentoring services including site visits. The project was done in cooperation with the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). The colleges followed a set of proven mentoring activities as they worked with resource persons from four-year college partners, and their knowledge, experience, and materials were disseminated to two-year colleges nationwide.



Stephen Gilmore

Stephen Gilmore was 19 years old when he became the first African American to be elected National President of Phi Theta Kappa, in 1988.

Gilmore attended Miami-Dade Community College (now Miami Dade College) in Florida and was a member of the Mu Epsilon Chapter.

He also made history in the PTK world when he became the first (and possibly only) Phi Theta Kappa National President invited to speak during a general session of the American Association of Community College's annual convention.

Bruce Oldfield

Bruce Oldfield previously served as honors program director and Phi Theta Kappa advisor at Binghamton Community College in New York with co-advisor Ann Sova.

For years Oldfield and Sova led one of the best honors programs in the country and served as Faculty Scholars and members of the Honors Program Council.

They also helped to plan and host New York Honors Institutes and were key players in many New York Region initiatives.

Oldfield is also a former recipient of the Distinguished Advisor Award and a member of the Athena Society.

Robert Blank

Although he would later help develop one of Phi Theta Kappa's most beloved events, Robert Blank began as a chapter advisor at the State University of New York in Farmingdale in 1965.

In 1968, he presented during the national convention and was asked to become the New England/Middle States Regional Coordinator. In 1969, he joined the Board of Directors, holding his seat for 16 years and serving as chair for six.

Also in 1969, he became the Honors Institute Coordinator, selecting speakers and setting up the seminar groups. He held the role for 20 years and continues to sponsor an Honors Institute lecture each year.

Harvey Cooke

The late Harvey Cooke served as advisor of the Upsilon Kappa Chapter of Penn Valley Community College and the Kappa of Missouri Alumni Association, as well as a member of Phi Theta Kappa's Board of Directors from 1980 to 1987.

He helped to host previous Phi Theta Kappa annual conventions held in Kansas City, Missouri.

Cooke contributed to the Key Opportunity campaign, which raised funds to build Phi Theta Kappa's current home, and attended the dedication ceremony in 1997.

He was a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation's Athena Society, and his widow, Phyllis, is also a member. In 2016, the Phyllis and Harvey S. Cooke Endowment was established to support annual convention and Honors Institute programs.

Elizabeth Moore

Elizabeth Moore was a dean at Stephens College, a private women's college in Missouri. She is credited with founding Kappa Phi Omicron, the honor society that would become Phi Theta Kappa.

Kappa Phi Omicron was founded in 1910; over the next few years, similar honor societies sprang up in other Missouri women's colleges. In 1918, while meeting at Stephens College, the presidents of eight of Missouri's two-year colleges for women combined the honor societies into one with a common character and standard and based on Phi Beta Kappa, the senior college honor society — Phi Theta Kappa was born.



Dr. Joan Fedor

It's one of the Phi Theta Kappa legends — that a long-ago conversation over a fence would have a lasting impact on honors education.

Dr. Joan Fedor has had a long and distinguished career as an educator, as a Phi Theta Kappa chapter advisor at Highline Community College in Des Moines, Washington, and as Washington Regional Coordinator. She and her late husband Bob were among the first to endow an Honors Institute Lecture, and she remains a member of Phi Theta Kappa's Honors Program Council. Fedor was named an Advisor Emeritus in 2014.

But in the early 1960s, she was a young wife and mother who wanted to go to college. Fedor shared this dream with her "over the fence" neighbor, Dr. Shirley Gordon (pg. 46), who was an administrator at a new community college.

"I wanted to go to school, and Highline Community College was just being started at a local high school. Shirley encouraged me to apply, and I got in," Fedor said.

A bachelor's and master's degree followed, along with a teaching position at Highline Community College.

"Shirley asked me to get in contact with Phi Theta Kappa about becoming the advisor at Highline," she said. "I called the national office and had a wonderful phone conversation with a very enthusiastic lady — Margaret Mosal. She invited me to New York State for the most wonderful Honors Institute in the world."

Just as community colleges are a uniquely American institution, the Honors Institute is unique to Phi Theta Kappa, Fedor said. For her, the Honors Institute was "love at first sight — the first Institute was an experience of a lifetime for me."

When she attended her first Honors Institute in 1970, the event was relatively new. Established in 1968 to celebrate Phi Theta Kappa's 50th anniversary, the Institute was the brainchild of Mosal and then-Phi Theta Kappa Associate Director Gayle Wyatt.

Fedor returned to Highline, became advisor to the Pi Sigma Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, and settled down to create an honors program that became a Society-wide model for excellence.

During her 20-plus years as an advisor, the Pi Sigma Chapter and Fedor were recognized almost annually at the Society's convention, especially for honors education. In 2008, she was named an International Honorary Member of Phi Theta Kappa. Cheering from the sidelines was Dr. Shirley Gordon, who had become Highline Community College's president.

"When I think about opportunities in Phi Theta Kappa, I keep coming back to the Honors Institutes," Fedor said. "I think our speakers contributed to international understanding long before we had the Internet and email to bring us closer together.

"Having international speakers come and talk was an incredible chance for our students to learn."

The Fedors' generous gift to endow an Honors Institute lecture is "nothing to compare with what I have gained from Phi Theta Kappa," she said. "My husband was glad to give this — he knew what Phi Theta Kappa meant to me."



Amb. Jeane Kirkpatrick

Former U.N. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick had a special connection to Phi Theta Kappa's past — she became a member while she was a student at Stephens College in Missouri in 1946, where PTK was founded.

She was also integral to the Society's future — in 1994, she lent her support to the Key Opportunity campaign, a \$3 million campaign to endow scholarships, support leadership programs, and help build Phi Theta Kappa's Headquarters, the Center for Excellence in Jackson, Mississippi. She served as national chair of the campaign.

"This is an organization that stands for academic excellence," Kirkpatrick said during a news conference

announcing the campaign. "I'm a big booster of two-year colleges and community colleges."

She also spoke at the building's dedication in 1997. The library at the Center for Excellence is named in her honor. And, she was named a Distinguished Alumna.

Kirkpatrick was the first American woman to serve as United Nations ambassador, and she did so during President Ronald Reagan's administration, from 1981 to 1985. She was the only woman in Reagan's National Security Council.

In her 2006 obituary in *The New York Times*, it was written, "No woman had ever been so close to the center of presidential power without actually residing in the White House." She was a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative think tank, at the time of her death.

Kirkpatrick was born in Oklahoma in 1926. After attending Stephens College, she moved to New York and earned a bachelor's degree from Barnard College in 1948 and a master's degree from Columbia University in 1950. She went to work in Washington, D.C. for the State

Department as a research analyst at the Intelligence and Research Bureau.

In 1967, she became an associate professor at Georgetown University. A year later, she earned her doctorate in political science from Columbia. She was made a full professor at Georgetown in 1973 and was given the endowed Leavy Chair in 1978.

Kirkpatrick returned to teaching at Georgetown following her ambassadorship, although she also served as a chief foreign policy adviser to Senate Republicans. In 1993, she cofounded Empower America, a conservative public-policy organization. She wrote several articles and books, including *The Withering Away of the Totalitarian State* in 1990 and *Good Intentions* in 1996.



Dr. Michael Bennett

Dr. Michael Bennett was a long-time president of St. Petersburg College (SPC) in Florida and was the first president to have attended the college.

St. Petersburg Junior College, as it was originally named, was the first two-year college in Florida. Bennett served as dean of men before becoming president in 1950. He served on numerous state and national boards, including as president of the Southern Association of Junior Colleges and secretary of the Commission on Higher Education for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Under his leadership, the predominately African American Gibbs Junior College merged with St. Petersburg Junior College in 1965. His tenure also brought the opening of two new campuses.

Bennett retired in 1976. Phi Theta Kappa established the Michael Bennett Lifetime Achievement Awards in his honor, to be presented to retiring college presidents, campus CEOs, and college state directors in recognition of exemplary service and long-standing support of Phi Theta Kappa throughout their careers.



1999-2000 International Officers

The 1999-2000 International Officer team did more than just usher in a new millennium at Phi Theta Kappa — they also had an idea that would change the lives of thousands of PTK members.

At the time, Phi Theta Kappa only offered transfer scholarships. President Stephanie Wright Meissen and Vice Presidents Wade Hale, Laura Dupree, Jim Hamrick, and Sarah Summer set out to

establish the first scholarships to cover community college tuition for Society members.

"I learned while running for office that many members needed help to pay for community college," said Dupree, now advisor to the Alpha Alpha Rho Chapter at Lone Star College-North Harris in Texas and a Board of Directors Alumni Achievement Award recipient. "Our officer team wanted to help, but we did not know how to get scholarships funded."

The team pulled inspiration from a lapel pin used for the Lone Star College-North Harris Honors Program and developed an annual convention pin to be given to those who donate to their new scholarship, the Leaders of Promise Scholarship. Convention pin donations continue to help fund the scholarship and raise more than \$15,000 each year.

With help from the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, the Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholarship now provides 200 scholarships of \$1,000 each to help students cover the cost of associate degrees.



Dr. Shirley Gordon

Dr. Shirley Gordon filled many roles during her life: co-founder and later president of Highline Community College in Washington; 20-year chair of the Phi Theta Kappa Board of Directors; and member of President Ronald Reagan's National Commission on Education.

But first and foremost, she was a teacher and a proponent of excellence.

Gordon was an early supporter of associate degree-granting colleges and helped establish Highline Community College in 1961, serving as one of the college's first faculty members. She became president in 1976 and was the first female community college president in Washington.

Her reputation as an esteemed educator reached Washington, D.C. in 1981, when she was chosen by President Reagan as the only community college representative on his National Commission on Excellence in Education. Gordon contributed

significantly to the commission's 1983 report, *A Nation at Risk*, and was invited to speak at Phi Theta Kappa's 1984 Annual Convention.

Although she'd actively supported her college's chapter, attending convention marked a turning point in her relationship with the Society. She was appointed to the Board of Directors in 1986 and served as chair from 1988 through 2008, longer than any other person. Gordon then served as vice chair of the board until her death in the fall of 2008.

Gordon's contributions to Phi Theta Kappa are immense and immeasurable. She championed the development of the Leadership Development Studies Program and the Leaders of Promise and Guistwhite Scholarships. She supported the partnership that created the All-USA Academic Team. She helped design the Mosal Awards for chapter advisors.

She helped the Society develop programming with the National Science Foundation to improve STEM curricula. And, known for cherishing excellence, she even gave Phi Theta Kappa Headquarters its name: The Center for Excellence.

Gordon also served on the board of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) and, in 2006, became only the third woman to receive AACC's National Leadership Award.

An honor she especially cherished was the renaming of Phi Theta Kappa's Hallmark Awards for college presidents and CEOs to the Shirley B. Gordon Awards of Distinction.

"That was a shining moment for me," she said in a 2007 interview. "I see Phi Theta Kappa as one of the key factors in the success of community colleges.

"With the number of new scholarships being announced, with the senior institutions becoming more aware of Phi Theta Kappa as a pool of top transfer students, I think Phi Theta Kappa is positioned to be more of a factor in higher education."

When she passed away, Gordon's estate established the Endowment for Excellence, which supports general Phi Theta Kappa programming needs.



Dr. Henry Moreland

Dr. Henry Moreland is an Advisor Emeritus and longtime advisor of the Upsilon Eta Chapter at Florida State College-Jacksonville. He was instrumental in chartering a Phi Theta Kappa chapter in Canada.

Moreland served on Phi Theta Kappa's Board of Directors from 1987 to 1993, leading advisor contributions to the Key Opportunity campaign as Phi Theta Kappa built the Center for Excellence it now calls home.

During his years of service, he was named a Distinguished Advisor, a Mosal Scholar, and an honorary member of the Eta Nu Chapter at St. Petersburg College, which was led by his friend and fellow Advisor Emeritus, Steve Meier, from 1979 to 2011.



Robin Rich-Coates

Phi Theta Kappa has provided Virginia advisor Robin Rich-Coates with a network of friends and opportunities she never could have imagined.

During her second year as an advisor, she applied to be a Seminar Leader (now Faculty Scholar) for the Honors Institute.

"I was accepted, and once I attended Honors [Institute], I was completely hooked on Phi Theta Kappa," she said. "From then on, I was an 'Honors junkie.'"

Since then, Rich-Coates has logged many a mile traveling to Phi Theta Kappa events. Each trip has brought her a greater knowledge of the organization, support for her role as advisor, and a larger network of colleagues she calls friends.

"Advisors learn from each other, support each other, and form the infrastructure that holds Phi Theta Kappa together," she said.

Now she's focusing on a way to widen this network for other advisors. With friend and fellow advisor Billy Wilson of Mississippi, Rich-Coates envisioned a new Visiting Advisor Scholar Program that would offer advisors financial assistance to facilitate their travel to regional meetings beyond their home regions.

Rich-Coates has started the process with a financial gift, although the program must be fully endowed before it can be implemented.

Over her 25-plus years as an advisor, Rich-Coates has found that she can always count on a little help from her Phi Theta Kappa friends. She hopes that this time will be no different, as she works to make the Visiting Advisor Scholar Program a reality.



Jack Bryant

Redlands Community College President Jack Bryant has been a passionate advocate for Phi Theta Kappa since becoming a member of the Mu Chi Chapter at Connors State College in 1977.

He was a first-generation, non-traditional college student when he became an active member, and he reconnected with the organization when he served as advisor to the award-winning Alpha Beta Upsilon Chapter at Redlands Community College in Oklahoma from 1990-1994.

As the college president at Redlands, he makes Phi Theta Kappa a priority by providing direct support to the chapter advisor team and to chapter members. His college has established a membership scholarship through its

foundation to make PTK membership more affordable for students — his goal is to cover 50 percent of all student induction fees and 100 percent of the fees for students showing need.

In 2015, Bryant introduced and championed a statewide Community College Completion Corps (C4) initiative that engaged students, faculty, staff, administrators, and community members throughout Oklahoma in a show of support for improving college completion.

Bryant serves on Phi Theta Kappa's Presidential Advisory Board, and in 2016 he received the Board of Directors Alumni Achievement Award.



Kenneth Ruemke

Texas alumnus Kenneth Ruemke was the recipient of Phi Theta Kappa's 2015 Board of Directors Alumni Achievement Award. He was inducted into the Alpha Alpha Rho Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Lone Star College's North Harris Campus in Texas on May 1, 1993.

Ruemke serves on the international Alumni Advisory Board and previously served as Texas Regional Alumni Advisor and Treasurer, as well as an officer of the Alpha of North Harris Alumni Association. He has attended every Alpha Alpha Rho induction ceremony since 1997, assists the chapter with Hallmark Awards preparation, and travels with them as a chaperone. He has attended every Phi Theta Kappa convention since 1994.

Under Ruemke's leadership, members of the Texas Regional Alumni Association (TRAA) conduct workshops at each regional event and host annual statewide Honors in Action workshops, subsidizing a substantial portion of the cost.

When the Dr. Mary Hood Leaders of Promise Scholarship fund was established, he led the campaign to raise a \$5,000 matching challenge for the fund.

Ruemke also oversees the Walter B. Cooper Memorial Scholarship judging (awarded by Texas Alumni) and the Pinnacle Award for Continued Excellence, which honors advisors in the Texas Region.

"Phi Theta Kappa has instilled in me a motivation to stay involved," he said. "I am constantly learning and developing skills that not only applied when I was a student, but are also relevant now in daily life.

"My involvement also gives me the opportunity to pay back Phi Theta Kappa and pay it forward to the individuals entering the Society in the future."

Dr. Jo Marshall & Dr. Scott Marshall

Dr. Jo Marshall has served as a Phi Theta Kappa leader in many capacities — as advisor for the Pi Pi Chapter at Jefferson State Community College for more than 30 years, as Alabama Regional Coordinator, and as the Regional Coordinator Representative and vice chair of the Phi Theta Kappa Board of Directors. Now president of Somerset Community College in Kentucky, she serves as chair of the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation Board of Trustees.

Jo has been honored as a Faculty Scholar, a Distinguished Regional Coordinator, and a Giles Distinguished Advisor. She was one of the first recipients of the Mosal Award and is an International Honorary Member of Phi Theta Kappa.

At her side throughout much of her Phi Theta Kappa journey was her late husband, Dr. Scott Marshall. Scott's role in Phi Theta Kappa was not as formal as his wife's, but his dedication to the organization was equally strong. His was a familiar face volunteering at convention registration for more than 20 years.

Jo and Scott attended their first Phi Theta Kappa annual convention in 1972, and Jo has hardly missed a convention or an Honors Institute since. Scott attended as many as possible, drawn to the organization because of his wife's enthusiasm. He said Phi Theta Kappa made the world "a small and friendly place" for students and faculty alike. Jo continues to treasure the friendships they made through their involvement.

Jo was instrumental in developing the Faculty Scholar Conferences to train Honors Institute seminar leaders for their roles and in securing a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to provide financial support for the program. The Marshalls were among the first to endow an honors lecture, which is now part of the Faculty Scholar Conference.

She also worked to provide development opportunities for chapter advisors as a Leadership Development Certification Program Facilitator and was part of the team that took the program to Singapore.

"The Leadership Program has taught me more than I can ever teach," Jo said. "It has a ripple effect — every time we certify 20 faculty to teach the Phi Theta Kappa Leadership Course, they return to their colleges and spread the program among more and more students."

In 2012, the Jo Marshall Leadership Award (Marshall Award) was created to encourage the professional growth of Phi Theta Kappa advisors by providing a \$5,000 stipend for the completion of a project that leads to personal leadership growth beyond the completion of professional degrees.

"Phi Theta Kappa has opened many doors for me," Jo said. "Every opportunity I have received in my professional life has been connected to Phi Theta Kappa."



Dr. Janice Freeman Dr. Joyce Freeman

The lives of twin sisters Dr. Janice Freeman and Dr. Joyce Freeman were intertwined with Phi Theta Kappa's story for as long as they remember — from their involvement at every level of the Society to their friendship with its longtime leader Dr. Margaret Mosal.

The Freeman twins were inducted into the Gamma Sigma Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Del Mar College in Texas in 1954. They later became advisors of the Zeta Xi Chapter at Wharton County Junior College in Texas and the Epsilon of Texas Alumni Association. Both were named Advisors Emeritus in 2014.

During their years as advisors, they served as Honors Institute seminar leaders, guest lecturers, international awards judges, and on Phi Theta Kappa's Board of Directors and the Foundation Board of Trustees. In 1978, they established the Freeman Science Award, which was given to the chapter or member who best related the Honors Study Topic to the discipline of science and reflected their love of biology, which they taught.

The two were charter faculty members of the College of Science and Technology at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, which would later become Corpus Christi State University and subsequently Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Both were named Professors Emeritus upon their retirement.

In recognition of their contributions, the twins were named Phi Theta Kappa's Distinguished Alumni in 1975 and recipients of the Board of Directors Alumni Achievement Award in 2005.

The Freemans attended the very first Honors Institute at Endicott College in 1968 — in fact, they attended the first 20 Honors Institutes

in addition to several others. They felt the Institute experience added so much to the academic and cultural life of the members.

"For 37 years the Honors Institutes have provided dynamic opportunities for Phi Theta Kappans to exchange ideas involving the Honors Study Topics, to hear noted speakers, travel to historic sites, and forge rich memories that will last a lifetime," they said.

Their love of the event prompted them to become the first to sponsor an Honors Institute lecture with their financial support. The Freeman Lecture is now presented annually in their name.

For many years the Freemans enjoyed a friendship with fellow alumna Dr. Margaret Mosal, Phi Theta Kappa's executive director from 1935 to 1985.

As new members, the Freeman sisters met Mosal at the national convention in Houston, Texas, in 1955. That meeting laid the groundwork for a bond that would last until Mosal's death in 1987.

"Margaret was convinced that membership would help you in later life, and she was right about that," they said. "Phi Theta Kappa opens many doors, to scholarships and jobs, but mainly by being such a strong indication of your success.

"For many students, membership is the first signal that they can make it in college."

Janice passed away in 2017, but her legacy in Phi Theta Kappa will continue for years to come.



Dr. Janice Freeman and Dr. Joyce Freeman

Dr. John Modschiedler

In 1984, Dr. John Modschiedler became an advisor at the College of DuPage in Illinois. During his 15 years of service, his chapter grew to be Phi Theta Kappa's largest.

Modschiedler was named a Distinguished Advisor and became an Advisor Emeritus in 2014. He now serves as a judge for the *Nota Bene* literary competition and endows the Honors Institute Modschiedler Lecture.

"Phi Theta Kappa has been the pinnacle of my community college experience," he said. "I wanted to give something back.

"I was the first to call Honors Institute the 'crown jewel' of Phi Theta Kappa's Honors Program. The camaraderie for students and the academic experience are like nothing else."

Dr. Virginia Stahl

Dr. Virginia (Ginny) Stahl's connection with Phi Theta Kappa began when she met longtime Honors Director Billy Wilson at an honors conference. He tried to convince her to use PTK's Honors Study Topic for her college's honors program.

That chance meeting began a long, multifaceted relationship with Phi Theta Kappa. By 1994, Stahl had become an advisor, and she admits serving as a Faculty Scholar further solidified her commitment.

She went on to serve on the Honors Committee, as an Association of Chapter Advisors officer, as an advisor representative on two task forces, and on the Society's Board of Directors.

Dr. Betty Scott

Dr. Betty Scott is an Advisor Emeritus and a certified instructor in Phi Theta Kappa's Leadership Development Studies Program. She served as Advisor At-Large for the Nevada/California Region, where she provided leadership training at regional board meetings and for regional officers and members.

She is also an Emerita Professor in the Department of Business Administration at the College of Southern Nevada.

Scott regularly contributes to the Leadership Development Program endowment to support those becoming certified instructors in the program.

C.R. Montgomery

C.R. "Bob" Montgomery was born in Canton, Mississippi, just four years after Phi Theta Kappa's Headquarters was moved to the home of its first executive director, Dr. Margaret Mosal, in the same small town. Coincidentally, Montgomery would go on to sponsor legislation appropriating state property on which to build the Society's Center for Excellence.

A graduate of Mississippi State University and the University of Mississippi Law School, Montgomery was elected to the State Senate in 1980 and became chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. He also served on the Joint Legislative Budget Committee and the Joint Housing Finance Oversight Committee before resigning in 1992.

Stan and Angie Batchelor

Most Phi Theta Kappa alumni know Stan Batchelor and his wife, Angie Vaughn, as "the Phi Theta Kappa paramedics." For nearly 20 years, they donated their vacation time volunteering for annual conventions and Honors Institutes.

Stan is a Board of Directors Alumni Achievement Award recipient, and Angie is an honorary PTK member. The two nurses have assisted victims of natural disasters in the United States and abroad, including in 2017, when Stan aided relief efforts following hurricanes in Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico.

Stan now serves as human services branch director for the Alabama Emergency Management Agency.



Mirta Ojito

Alumna Mirta Ojito previously served on the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation Board of Trustees and as an annual convention panelist.

Recognized as Phi Theta Kappa's Distinguished Alumna in 2006, she spoke of life in her native Cuba under the Castro regime and how she and her family came to the United States in 1980 on the Mariel boatlift.

Ojito has said enrolling in Miami Dade College and becoming a member of the Omicron Tau Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa helped her realize her dream of becoming a journalist.

After graduating from Miami Dade, she transferred to Florida Atlantic University on a Phi Theta Kappa scholarship and, years later, received her master's degree from Columbia University.

Ojito is the author of *Finding Mañana: A Memoir of a Cuban Exodus*, about her childhood in Cuba, the Mariel boatlift, and her life in the United States. Her second book, *Hunting Season: Immigration and Murder in an All-American Town*, was released in 2013.

Ojito worked as a reporter for the *Miami Herald* and *El Nuevo Herald* before joining *The New York Times*, where she shared the 2001 Pulitzer Prize for national reporting for the series "How Race is Lived in America."

She is now serving as director of news standards for NBC/Telemundo and teaches reporting and writing in the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University. Ojito is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, an independent, nonpartisan membership organization, think tank and publisher.

Kevin Brame

Kevin Brame is the executive director of the International Public Safety Leadership & Ethics Institute (IPSLEI). He has taught leadership studies at Chapman University in Orange, California, and is the retired deputy fire chief in North Las Vegas, Nevada.

Brame became a Phi Theta Kappa Leadership Development Studies Certified Instructor in 1998 and has been an International Facilitator since 2004.

He partnered with Phi Theta Kappa to establish a scholarship named in honor of Dr. Richard L. Resurreccion, a member of the IPSLEI Board of Directors. The scholarship provides two \$1,000 scholarships annually to members pursuing an associate degree in public safety.

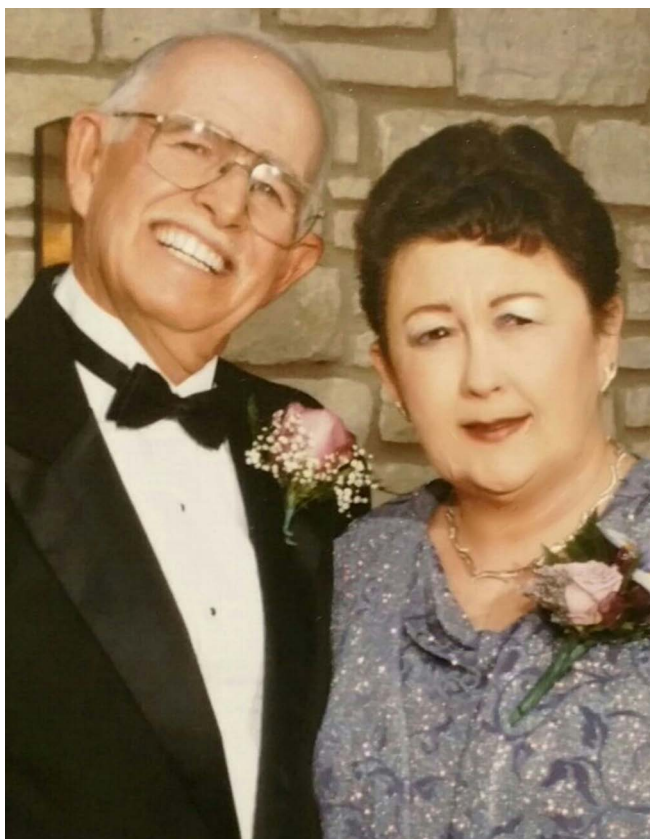
Michael and Katie Storey

Michael Storey served as 2003-2004 Division III Vice President and now serves on the Alumni Advisory Board. A frequent volunteer at annual conventions, he has moderated the Scholar Bowl Competition at the 2016 and 2017 annual conventions.

Michael is president of the Illinois Alumni Association (IRAA), which provides volunteers at regional activities, hosts programs, and provides chapter induction speakers.

His wife, Katie, was a Phi Theta Kappa member at Elgin Community College before accepting a position at a consulting firm specializing in education.

Michael is a managing partner at Beckatt Solutions. He and Katie are members of the Athena Society.



Drs. Mary & Duane Hood

For years she was the embodiment of Phi Theta Kappa in Texas. Small in stature and large in heart, the late Dr. Mary Hood was overflowing with personality, wit, and dedication — especially to community college students and Phi Theta Kappa members.

Always at her side was her husband, Dr. Duane Hood, a Phi Theta Kappa alumnus. Together they forged a tradition of service that Duane is now continuing alone. Mary died in the spring of 2011, but her presence is still felt in the Society she loved and that loved her in return.

Phi Theta Kappa honored Mary's legacy at the 2012 annual convention, announcing the establishment of the Mary Hood Leaders of Promise Scholarship of \$1,000, which is now presented annually to a member from the Texas Region.

Mary and Duane met as students at East Texas State University, now Texas A&M University-Commerce. They

began dating in December of 1962 and married the following July. In 1971, they moved with their young twin daughters, Deanne and Denise, to Snyder, Texas, to join the faculty of the new Western Texas College.

Duane valued his experience as a Phi Theta Kappa member at Trinity Valley Community College, and as administrator of student services at Western Texas College, he led efforts to charter the Psi Zeta Chapter in 1972.

A year later Mary became an advisor, and for the next 38 years, Mary and Duane were closely associated with Phi Theta Kappa on the chapter, regional, and international levels.

Over the years the Psi Zeta Chapter collected numerous awards, and both Mary and Duane were recognized for their service as advisors. Both served as officers in the Association of Chapter Advisors.

When Mary became Texas Regional Coordinator in 1993, Duane worked with her and shared her pride as the region chalked up a record 15 Distinguished Region Awards, hosted four annual conventions, and produced innumerable International Officers and scholarship recipients.

Mary was elected Regional Coordinator Representative to the Phi Theta Kappa Board of Directors in 2007 and was serving her second term at the time of her death.

Both Mary and Duane were proud to have a leadership scholarship for Western Texas College students named in their honor; Texas A&M University-Commerce also offers the Mary L. Hood Graduate Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship. Mary had previously established Texas' STAR Scholarships that now bear her name.

Duane, now retired, assisted the Texas Region with their transition to new leadership and stays involved. He is the recipient of the 2012 Board of Directors Alumni Achievement Award.

"Membership is a real source of pride to students and motivates them to achieve more," Duane said. "Mary knew the benefits that Phi Theta Kappa offers.

"Her legacy will be her pride in her students and her dedication to their success."



Pat Usher and the Follett Family

As the largest educational bookseller in America, Follett Higher Education has long had a presence in the lives of college students. Eight years ago, the company went a step further and partnered with Phi Theta Kappa to present what is widely recognized as the most prestigious academic honor for students seeking associate degrees: The All-USA Academic Team program.

The All-USA program awards 20 scholarships of \$5,000 each to students demonstrating outstanding academic achievement and significant campus and community engagement. Scholars are recognized each year at Phi Theta Kappa's Presidents Breakfast, held during the American Association of Community Colleges' (AACC) annual convention.

"This program recognizes the potential of these students to change the world through their inspired pursuit of learning and growth, no matter the challenges they face," said Pat Usher, senior vice president of sales and marketing for Follett. "We are pleased to help these deserving students with support that can make their educational goals more accessible and affordable — both of which are core to Follett's mission."

Follett's partnership with Phi Theta Kappa began in 2010 through Dr. E. Ann McGee (pg. 22), president of Seminole State College of Florida and a member of Phi Theta Kappa's Presidential Advisory Board.



Cassius Johnson

Phi Theta Kappa alumnus and former International President Cassius Johnson is vice president of organizational strategy and policy at Jobs for the Future, a nonprofit organization providing opportunities for underserved populations.

Johnson was elected Phi Theta Kappa's International President in 1997, when he was a member of the Alpha Psi Xi Chapter at Bevill State Community College in Alabama. He transferred to Texas Tech University on a Phi Theta Kappa scholarship and earned a master's degree from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin, where he was a Barbara Jordan Scholar.

Prior to joining Jobs for the Future, Johnson worked as a senior director of policy and government affairs at Year Up and as a program officer at the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

Today he serves on the Massachusetts Workforce Development Board and chairs the Youth Committee. Johnson also continues to be involved with community colleges and Phi Theta Kappa, serving as vice chair of the Foundation Trustees.

He said his membership in Phi Theta Kappa opened doors throughout his academic career and allowed him to establish himself as a scholar, a leader, and an engaged citizen who was ready to be successful and have a positive impact.

"The powerful thing that Phi Theta Kappa does is provide peer support to students," Johnson said. "Expectations are set to hit the mark academically and engage in programs to develop skills needed in the job market."

PHI THETA KAPPA FOUNDATION

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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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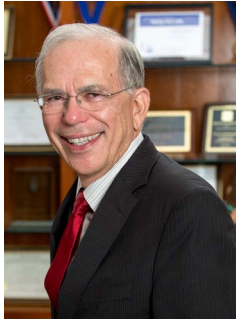
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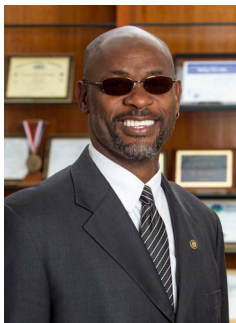
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PHI THETA KAPPA FOUNDATION

— CENTENNIAL CIRCLE OF GIVING —

Thanks to our donors, alumni, and friends like you, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society has changed millions of lives since its founding 100 years ago. We recognize students who were told they'd likely never attend college, much less succeed. We secure scholarships at associate, baccalaureate, and graduate levels so our members can achieve their goals of completing a degree. We provide opportunities for students to serve in leadership roles on local, regional, and international levels. We offer free professional development that will make members more competitive in the workforce.

We encourage you to help us continue changing lives over the next 100 years by committing to a monthly gift in celebration of our centennial.

CENTENNIAL GIVING LEVELS

 \$19.18 Per month	 \$100 One-time gift or \$8.33 per month	 \$1,918 One-time gift or \$159.83 per month	 \$2,500 One-time gift
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All donors who give \$100 or more by December 31, 2018, will become members of the Centennial Circle.

To make a gift online, visit ptkfoundation.org.

For further information, contact the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation at 601.984.3504 or 800.946.9995.

IN GRATITUDE FOR YOUR COMMITMENT

2017

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 so our records can be corrected. Thank you.

ATHENA LEGACY SOCIETY

The Athena Society is an exclusive group of donors who made the thoughtful decision to leave a gift to the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation, regardless of the amount. Such gifts might include bequests, trusts, life insurance, and other deferred giving options that allow individuals to support Phi Theta Kappa while making plans beneficial to their financial circumstances.

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OAK LEAF LEGACY SOCIETY

Members of the Oak Leaf Society have chosen to establish an endowment in support of Phi Theta Kappa, which will exist in perpetuity. Endowments at Phi Theta Kappa provide lasting, transformative programs that truly support our members of today and tomorrow. Endowed programs allow the Society the ability to be proactive in its planning, visionary in approach, and responsive to new opportunities.

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Christopher Calhoun	<i>Shirley B. Gordon</i>	Safety Leadership	Jo Marshall	Texas Region
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		<i>John Kesler</i>	Oberndorf	

**Deceased in italics*

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 the Foundation office at 800.946.9995.

FOUNDATION AND CORPORATE CHAMPIONS Cumulative Giving ≥ \$1 million

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HALLMARK SOCIETY | \$50,000

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Jo and Scott Marshall
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Joyce Freeman
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Monika Byrd

Casey and Karl
Carrington-
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Paige Chandler
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Diane and Nicky Drake
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Lori Garrett
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Peter Hesketh
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CENTENNIAL CIRCLE | \$100 OR MORE

Ends Dec. 31, 2018

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