IT’S SCHOLARSHIP SEASON!

READ THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS TO FIND OUT WHAT OHIO IS DOING TO ADAPT AND THRIVE

CHECK OUT THIS SEASON’S FEATURED ARTIST IN THE BUCKEYE’S NEWEST COLUMN, AESTHETICA

MEET THE NEWEST ADDITION TO THE REGION’S OFFICER TEAM

FIND OUT HOW TO MAKE ALL YOUR HARD WORK PAY OFF
Brenda Jarvis reflects on the changes this year has provided and looks forward at the second half of her term in this season’s Presidential Address.

Impact: One member gave all he could to Phi Theta Kappa, and received an astounding award.

Meet the fantastic new Southwest District Rep!

Find out how one chapter used their Honors in Action project to make a difference in the lives of at-risk youth.

Scholarships! Check out all the resources for free money Ohio has to offer!

Read about how one of our District Reps use art as a way to transform the daunting into the conquered. Cody Lee shares his story in this issue’s Aesthetica column.
In Evolution and Revolution, only one thing is constant: Change.

Hello Ohio Region!

I hope the new academic year finds you all inspired and focused on your future! Amidst the stress of change, remember that you are stepping forward on your path; your goal is closer every day. The path may change before you: a fork here, a turn there, and our goals evolve and change as we move forward. But, the core of what our goals represent is what leads and drives us.

So much is happening in the arena of the Community College atmosphere. Malcolm Gladwell stated at the AACC Keynote speech at International Convention this year: “This is the decade of and for Community Colleges.” Individual administrations are restructuring, the White House is inviting Phi Theta Kappa Divisions to participate in discussions regarding the future of Community Colleges in the attempts to enact a national work-study format to make secondary education free for a large number of students. It may not happen this year or next, but the exploration of the discussion of the possibility is just awesome!

I am excited about the changes the Regional Officer team has developed for the coming year, and I hope that those of you who attended the Leadership in Action Conference at Hocking College are excited about those changes as well! I saw and met so many new faces and am eager to see you again! We are fine tuning our goals and will keep you updated as we continue to move forward.

On a more somber note, you have all heard by now that our illustrious leader, Julie Cohara, has had to step down as Regional Coordinator. Julie’s perspectives and inspirations to this team have been nothing short of amazing. We are ever indebted to her passion and dedication, and will continue to call on her expertise as she is always a Phi Theta Kappan. There just aren’t enough words.

As we gather at Terra State for Honors in Action, I am very excited to dig deep into the theme of Human Expression. Opportunities for various fellowship events on Friday night, writing, music, tattoo fair poster boards from individual chapters, and our keynote speaker- a tattoo artist and Cedarville alum! We will also have a visit from headquarters! We revisit College Fish and Five Star Member initiatives, and highlight one of the most difficult areas of writing Hallmarks submissions: the difference between leadership and developmental roles. Let us not forget we’ll find out who will be taking home the Regional Trophies and Howdy Bear!

We will begin our day on Saturday morning with District Meetings. The Officer Team is eager to learn what everyone has planned for the coming year, so we can visit and help you in your endeavors. The path forward is wrought with change. Let us explore it together!

- Ohio Region President Brenda Jarvis
Dear Ohio Region,

“Free Your Mind: Explorations of Expression” is your awesome theme for Ohio Honors in Action Conference October 16-17, 2015 at Terra State. Information was posted on ohioptk.org the first week of September. Don’t forget to register and pay by October 2, 2015!

So what does this theme mean? Recall the Honor Study Topic Guide’s Theme 3: Quests for Human Expression. How do we express discoveries when we explore frontiers? At OHIA, we’ll explore this in the context of body art: How do you use body art to express your new frontiers of self-expression? We’ll also explore this in the context of transferring: How does a college or university empower you to explore academic and social expressions as a prospective student? Your Ohio Team is also hosting lunch expressions, inviting you to explore various forms of self-expression (Poets and musicians—That’s your cue to bring your work/instrument!).

“How far along are you on your journey of discovering what being a Phi Theta Kappan means?”

All of us are Phi Theta Kappans. “Once a Phi Theta Kappan, always a Phi Theta Kappan.” How do we express that? How far along are you on your journey of discovering what being a Phi Theta Kappan means? Our four core values that we collectively share are scholarship, leadership, service, and fellowship. In any organization, its mission and values create shared beliefs. As you read some of our beliefs, think about how you can help your chapter express them on your campus...

“I commit to complete my college certificate or degree”, or “I commit to supporting students’ completion of their education”

Phi Theta Kappa supports the Community College Completion Corps, which invites you to “Join the Corps” by pledging to commit to complete your education- and help another do the same. Learn more at cccompletioncorps.org. Pledge today!

“I encourage others to accept their membership to Phi Theta Kappa”

Is your autumn membership drive in full gear? Let your Key Services Consultant know if you need assistance with planning your membership drive. Get in touch with your District Representative if you’d like some fresh ideas or regional assistance! Remember we’re seeking to achieve a 15% acceptance rate in 2015!

“I want to transfer to a four-year degree and/or pursue scholarships”

Have you completed your collegefish.org profile? Remember that this website is available to all two-year college students, powered by Phi Theta Kappa.

“I want to develop my leadership skills”

Competitive Edge is back! This online personal and professional development opportunity is available to you 24/7 at ptk.org. How many stars will you earn as a member? How much of your chapter will you engage in this program?

If you attended Leadership in Action in July, these quests for chapter expression may seem familiar... we launched the first regional trophies for each chapter with the greatest rates for each of the programs above. Will your chapter take home the trophy for our collective quest to express the above beliefs?

We look forward to joining you on this quest October 16th at Terra State Community College! See you then!

Phi Theta Kappa Hugs,
Onjalai and Julie
Phi Theta Kappa has had a massive impact on my life in more ways than I can count. The first thing that it has done is boosted my self-confidence, and the confidence I have gained has motivated me to push my limits. For example, public speaking is something I never had a desire to do. However, since joining, I have spoken at two campus student academic recognition ceremonies about Phi Theta Kappa and I delivered a speech when I ran for regional officer. Being an active chapter officer for about a year, I was able to participate in a wide variety of experiences. Our chapter accomplished a great deal while I was in office; I got to help run fellowship events, contribute to research projects, and various other endeavors around my campus.

I also had the opportunity to meet new friends at regional and international conventions. When I attended Nerd Nation this year, I flew on a plane for the very first time, which was an interesting experience! To every Phi Theta Kappan who is able, I would highly recommend attending Nerd Nation, as it is an awesome experience. A memorable Nerd Nation experience for me was when Dr. Michio Kaku, astrophysicist and author, said to the crowd of Phi Theta Kappans, “You are the leaders of the future. You will make this vision of the future happen.” The speakers and the energy level in all the breakout and general sessions is something that can’t be described adequately. It has to be experienced.

Thanks to Phi Theta Kappa and my GPA, I was awarded two hefty scholarships. As a matter of fact, I am currently writing this article from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania because of those scholarships. I received $18,000 dollars per year in scholarships from the Harrisburg University of Science and Technology this summer. So now I am living in an apartment two blocks from my university, pursuing a Bachelor’s Degree in Interactive Media Design. I have never lived outside Ohio, or in a city before, so as any Phi Theta Kappan would do, I am adapting in order to overcome these new challenges.

Thanks for everything.

Shane Jeffers, Ohio Region Alumnus
Greetings, fellow Phi Theta Kappa members!

I hope everyone is having a good school year so far. As president of Alpha of Ohio, the Ohio Region’s alumni association, I believe it is important to keep members updated on what Alpha is doing. First, I would love to share that Alpha of Ohio's Relay for Life fundraiser brought in $1,409.05. This is amazing! Alpha worked hard on this fundraiser and we are extremely happy with the results. This amount would not have been so high if it weren’t for donations made by members at Leadership in Action back in July. We truly appreciate all of your help and could not have done it without you.

Next, I would like to mention that, as I am writing this, the Alpha officers are finalizing all the details of the Alpha of Ohio Alumni Retreat. I would like to extend a big thank you in advance to all those who were able to come, whether alumni, Regional Advisory Committee members, or those members interested in joining Alpha.

Lastly, I would like all members to note that Alpha is in the process of making plans for its Hallmarks Workshop, which can be taken advantage of by any chapter. More details will be coming later, so be on the lookout.

See you at the Honors in Action conference!

Thanks,

Rachel Littler, Alpha President
Lectures Part II: Therapy (“I’m Listening”)

In the past when times like these occurred I would stop by your home on the east side of Columbus, sit next to you and simply listen to life missives and take in your wisdom.

I’ve called out for your voice because I need it to drown out the many doubts that I’ve inherited since your departure, but I just can’t seem to hear it.

In this moment I remember when you knew something was wrong and I needed to release the pent up frustration that I hid from the world you would grab your ice & Coke, light a cigarette, look at me and say, “I’m Listening”.

Grandma, may I sit with you for a minute?
I’m a little embarrassed because I don’t believe in spirits but I know my spirit is drowning when I should be surfing clouds.

I have taken to sipping spirits for any gaps that need filled. It seems this thick skin works against the world’s criticisms but doesn’t help when the cuts are internal. This triple distilled doesn’t seem to sterilize those wounds.

It’s as if the shadows casted behind me have formed eyes and mouthed all the things I’ve hidden.

I’ve allowed the weight of doubt to drag this supposed limitless potential you, loved ones and those dearest cheer on under the current. My ears and thoughts are water logged. I call out to the father, son, mother, daughter, hell whichever is nearest spirit but I’m grasping at fishes.

Waves of emotions crash against my confidence in private, even when in public I project the happiest of court jesters.

Even though I fall deeper I show the world everything you taught to me;

“Push those shoulder’s back, smile big, speak clearly and passionately, and if kindness will not kill them then your successes will.”

Seems the only thing keeping me afloat is my inner Harry Truman need to box sulfur and put a bow tie on a bottle of hell and present it as my gift to the world.

I find peace in the flames. The soothing heat calms the discord around me. I refuse to allow the warnings of Icarus to alter my trajectory because beneath this skin hides the wings of a phoenix with protruding horns and a tail that propels me toward the stars.

I’m built with a digestive tract that rejects failure and feeds off the negativity, mockery, and a little scorn. I have the tenacity to slay leviathan and tame the pale horse. You taught me to take the high road, but I’ve learned it’s not always for the noble effort of letting go, it’s to gain the leverage that when I jump down I’m guaranteed to snap the necks of self-doubt and pity and crush the backs of any and all who claimed my failure was imminent.

So I go through the motions and instead of fighting against it I use the current to push me along. Finally able to surface, I found the strength to tread water and swim. I know the shore is a ways to go but I know it will be worth it. I catch my breath, brushing off what pulled me below in the beginning...

You built scholars and gentlemen. I am skeptical of everything to the point where I am skeptical of self, but I will not stop till I’ve captured all that you envisioned. Sometimes I have to remember my biggest battle is against myself.

I remember by the time you finished your cigarette and took your last sip you’d hug me, tell me you loved me, kiss me on my forehead and then would say

“You knew it all along, now just don’t allow yourself to forget.”

Thank you Grandma, I think I got this.

Written By: Brandon Keith Cornute
April 24, 2015
Just a reminder that Alpha of Ohio will have a marketplace table at HIA. We will have a few things new and different, along with items that we have had at past events.

At LIA, we started to sell tickets for a homemade quilt that was made by alumna MaryAnna Robinson. The tickets are $1 for one ticket or $5 for 6 tickets. We will be selling the tickets through International 2016, and you don’t need to be present when we draw the winning ticket. The more tickets you buy, the better chance you will have to win the quilt!

For something new and different, we will be selling chore or date jars (along with some other themes). These are mason jars filled with six different colors of popsicle sticks. The color of the sticks can represent different things, such as the price range for a chore or a date. The jars are put together by alumna Heather Clippinger, and will be sold for $5 each.

Some of the items that we have had at past events include flag pins, colon cancer awareness pins, Alumni-in-Action polo shirts, long sleeve t-shirts, fleece vests, PTK dice with Frackle instructions, PTK candles (made by alumnus Denny Simpson), tote bags, and Dr. Rod Risley nerd fans. Make sure you get a fan- they could be a collector item one day, since Dr. Risley has retired.

So remember to support scholarships in Ohio by shopping at the HIA marketplace table this October! We accept cash, check, and credit cards. The more money we raise, the more students we are able to support.

Thank you, and see you in October!
Music has always been a source of happiness to me. So when my chapter, Beta Gamma Epsilon, chose to pursue Honors in Action Theme #3: Quests of Human Expression last year, I was excited and hopeful that it would lead to something to do with music. We had many people start in on the research, myself included. We came up with a range of topics, but by far, the most popular research was about how beneficial music is to young people. We learned that music can be used as therapy for those who have been abused, and how it can also help deter those young people, who are growing up in a less than ideal environment, from becoming violent or joining gangs.

Springboarding off our research, we began brainstorming ideas of what kind of project we could do. Beta Gamma Epsilon has a standing relationship with New Beginnings Transitional Housing, a safe place for those who need to get away from a bad home situation, as we hold an annual Christmas party for their residents. The idea was suggested that we use our partnership with New Beginnings to create a service project that would benefit the young children staying there, and that’s when things really took off. We decided to create a music corner for the children so that they could explore the joys of music right where they lived.

New Beginnings allowed us to paint a corner of their room usually dedicated to being a food pantry, to create our vision. A sunny yellow color was chosen to brighten the room and coordinate with a pre-existing rainbow border. Transparency slides of musical things were created so we could project them onto the wall to paint. We chose a music staff with a giant treble clef and music notes for the largest wall, and a saxophone with music notes coming out of it for the smaller wall. We then purchased a flutophone for each child living at the shelter and a community set of hand bells.

The unveiling came at our annual Christmas party. Members cooked a wonderful feast, Stark State students had generously donated presents for each resident carefully placed under a tree, and even Santa and Mrs. Claus showed up! After the food was served and the presents handed out, we had a demonstration of how the hand bells worked from one of our member’s church group.

It was then finally time to debut our new music room. It was a hit! We were fortunate enough to have one young man living at the shelter talk about how important music was to him and play his guitar for a little while. Everything he expressed in his speech was everything we hoped to accomplish with our project.

I am so grateful I was able to help work on this project. It made me appreciative of everything I am blessed to have, and allowed me to share a part of me with others that brings joy into the world. I can only hope this year’s project will fill me with the same wonderful feelings.
The cost is an additional $35.00 of the normal plate cost. The plate can be purchased for any private vehicle excluding motorcycles. If you wish to purchase the plate, all you have to do is go to your local BVM. This can be done at the time of your birthday or sooner if you do not want to wait. To get the plate mid-year, just tell the BMV that you desire the Phi Theta Kappa plate and they will assist you. You will have to pay the additional $35.00 plus a $15.00 one-time fee to get a new set of plates. The $15.00 is the normal fee anytime you want to replace an old set. You will then receive a temporary tag until your new plates come in the mail, about a week. If you wish to buy the plate online at the time of your birthday (not trading in) follow these instructions:

Go to www.oplates.com
Click on special plate availability
Check passenger car and hit “continue”
Scroll down until you see the Phi Theta Kappa plate and select it
Click “continue”
Select the option from the specialty plate availability (stock plate number or specialty) and hit “continue”
Finish the check-out procedure

Enjoy your new Phi Theta Kappa license plates!
Buckeye Scholarship
Sponsored by the Alpha of Ohio Alumni Association, this scholarship recognizes outstanding members involved in their community. One $500.00 scholarship will be awarded each year.

John C. Kesler Scholarship
Sponsored by the Alpha of Ohio Alumni Association, this scholarship was established to provide the opportunity to attend the annual International Phi Theta Kappa Convention. The scholarship provides one registration fee and travel expenses totaling $750.00.

Dorothy C. Lanier Scholarship for Ohio Region
Sponsored by NFL Hall of Famer, Willie Lanier, in honor of his aunt, Dorothy. This scholarship is in the amount of $1000.

Cindy L. Carbone Scholarship
Sponsored by the Alpha of Ohio Alumni Association, one $500.00 scholarship will be awarded each year to recognize an outstanding first year student and Ohio member who has shown leadership within Phi Theta Kappa.

Commit to Complete
Funded by the Ohio Region License Plate Initiative, one $1,000 scholarship will be awarded each year for the purpose of assisting the recipient to complete his/her collegiate studies and attain their first associate degree or certificate.

Strongest Souls Scholarship
Funded by a generous alumnus donor, this is a $1000 scholarship to honor and support those who are making strides to change the face of mental or emotional illness.

Honors Institute Scholarship
Sponsored by the Ohio Region, this scholarship covers the registration cost of approximately $875.00 to attend the International Honors Institute in June.
Cody Lee has had an interest in art since he was old enough to hold a pencil. From early doodles through grade school creative arts classes, his artwork began as a pastime that he had a knack for.

His art took on a more developed meaning when he discovered Japanese media in the fifth grade. Until that time, the inspiration that was available to Cody was limited in what art could be as an expressive art form. Unlike the traditional illustrated works that were available to Cody as a child, these Japanese stories were not always pleasant with happy endings. These stories depicted aspects of the human condition that are not always explored. Some elements in these stories could be dark in nature yet still relatable and universal to people. The artwork itself was able to put an emotion into action or stylize the concept of strength into a pointy hairstyle.

From this point, Cody shifted his perspective of what art could really be. Instead of keeping a journal, Cody created a comic book series that was an embellishment of his daily life. In this medium, he could live out questions to be answered about the people in his life, or perhaps defeat the middle school bully in an epic battle.

Growing up the son of a song leader at a local church, music was another important part of Cody's life. When he was thirteen, Cody got his first guitar and was immediately in love with playing and writing music. Being an introverted person by nature, he could use his art in both illustration and music to express the way that life felt.

To this day, Cody writes music and plays guitar when he finds some free time in between school and work, and his comic book is a continuation of his daily struggles and triumphs. "When life becomes a monster, I put it to paper and draw a battle that I can win."
If you are reading this, you should know that you are a high achieving, exceptional student. As a member of Phi Theta Kappa, you have proven yourself successful in the college classroom, and you have further invested time outside the classroom to advance your campus and community in worthy endeavors. As such, many of you are on your way to making a major decision -- your major. Some of you may have already made your selection and be close to graduating. From here, you may transfer to a four year college, begin a new career, or use your degree to advance the position you currently hold. The knowledge you gain from your college experience offers you the opportunity to change your life and your world. It is a powerful crossroad.

When I joined Phi Theta Kappa, I didn’t know the impact it would have on my life. I had a set path for college, clear short-term and long-term goals, and a plan to continue with my Human Resources degree. The truth is, I never chose business, it fell in my lap. It was never a passion of mine, but my career in management pushed me to return to college. The drive to graduate and the never ending desire to always deliver my best work got me into Phi Theta Kappa. I was inducted in the spring of 2015. My entire family came out to see me walk across the stage and accept a role as a new officer for my chapter. We all went out to celebrate with lunch that afternoon. It was the last day I saw my father alive.

For anyone who has lost someone close to them, they know the earth-shattering reality check that follows. Losing my father caused me to struggle often with the notion of death and the fear of losing someone else close to me. More so, it caused me to struggle with the notion of life. You never know when your time will run out or when it will be your last day. When I die, I do not want to take my dreams with me to my grave. The only way to truly live is to take risks, trust intuition and follow the dreams that the universe has given you. They were placed inside of you for a reason. If you do not chase those dreams as if your life depends on it, you will die having never truly lived. So when the opportunity to attend Honors Institute in New Mexico came my way, I jumped for it.

I had spent the last two years of my life completely dedicated to my job. The weeklong trip at the University of New Mexico was the first time I had requested time off work, and although I didn’t know it then, it would be the beginning of my new life. My time at Honors Institute was profound. Being surrounded by great minds who seek to challenge you is exhilarating. My most impactful moment came from Steve Winters, a photographer for National Geographic. He spoke of his journey with photography, and how his path led him to his dream job. Currently, Winters is the “Big Cat” man who uses his photography to raise awareness of animal poaching and save lives. It was during his speech, in a room full of 500 people, that I realized what my purpose was. It reignited a passion I had burning deep inside my entire life, one that I had allowed to dim in order to chase a dream that was never mine. It was in that moment that I decided to change my major to environmental science.

All the most influential thinkers to step foot on this Earth have one thing in common – passion. Abraham Lincoln, William Shakespeare, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Isaac Newton were all passionate in their pursuits. There are times when you will fail, when everything will go wrong. The money won’t be there, the people you thought you could count on will let you down and you will be alone. It is during those times that you must search inside yourself for a reason to move forward. Without passion, that reason will flat line.

Mark Twain said “The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why”. If you don’t know what your passion is, I encourage you to go out and find it. If you are in the wrong field, make a change. Be sure you can look back at your life, and be proud of the legacies that you have left. If death teaches us anything, it is that life is too short to live in mediocrity. Each of us has the power to create extraordinary change, and the ability to affect the world around us. In the spirit of exploration, take a closer look at yourself. Push past old limitations and seek new frontiers. After all, it is never too late to change your major.

It Is Never Too Late to Change Your Major

A personal account by Rachel Hockenberry
Ohio Region License Plate Scholarship Initiative

To retain this initiative to our scholarship fund, Phi Theta Kappa Ohio Region must secure 500 sales/plates by June 8th, 2017.

The 2015-2016 Ohio Region Officer team has set goals for reaching these numbers:

- 75 plates sold by end of each conference.
- 100 plates sold by the end of October conference.
- 200 plates sold by Regional Awards Conference in March.

Adopt a Chapter

Purpose: Elevate Ohio Regional engagement utilizing district and regional leadership to support active but fledgling chapters. Officers will maintain regular contact with selected chapters, aiming to increase chapter star ratings. Goals include:

- Increase membership
- Increase participation in College Fish
- Increase participation in Competitive Edge
- Increase chapter ‘Star level’ by one star

Regional Officer Outreach

Executive Officers will attend one event within their district and two events outside of their district, excluding events at their home chapters.

District Officers will attend one event within their district and one event outside of their district, excluding their home chapters.

Competitive Edge/Five Star Member

All Regional Officers will obtain their 5 Star Competitive Edge status by February 1st, 2016.

Title IX Training and Certification

All Regional Officers will obtain Title IX Reporter Training and certification.

Phi Theta Kappa 101

The Ohio Region will incorporate ‘Phi Theta Kappa 101’: Cynthia Johnson-Mason and Connie and David Kerr’s original initiative within the Kentucky Region and the Alumni Association of Phi Theta Kappa.

The above named individuals will be invited to assist with presenting the information to maintain the integrity of the program.

Adopted chapters (as outlined in previous goal) will receive this presentation as part of their Regional support and mentorship.

The Ohio Region Officer Team hopes to further develop this initiative to a multi-regional event with invitations to the Indiana and Michigan Regions.

Regional Trophies

Best Chapter C4 Pledge Rate: Clark State for 6.32% pledge rate of their eligible membership!

Best Chapter CollegeFish.org Profile Completion Rate: Southern State for 7% of eligible membership completing collegefish.org profiles!

Best Chapter Competitive Edge Engagement: Cuyahoga Community College-Metro with an incredible 17.4% of the chapter participating in Competitive Edge!

Best Chapter Membership Acceptance Rate: Washington State Community College with 34.6% membership acceptance!

Congratulations to all winning chapters!