

ALPHA BITS FROM ALPHA GAMMA PI CHAPTER

April 2006

Volume 3, Issue 2

Spring 2006 Officers

President: Homa Caldwell-Tomas

Vice-Presidents by Campus:

CYP: Melissa McKinnon

EVC: Keisha Chambers
Brandi Smith

NRG: Amanda Blevins
Michelle Pardo

PIN: Julie Thomas

RGC: Natasha Honeycutt
& Kittlyn Rice

RVS: April Parker

RRHEC: Amy Bradley

Secretary:
You-Lan Bribach

Treasurer:
Ruby Becerra

Historian:
Jennifer Palmer-Lee

Parliamentarian:
Daniel Soza

Public Relations:
Roland Brown

Congratulations, Alpha Gamma Pi!

The 2006 Phi Theta Kappa Texas Regional convention held in Austin March 9 through 12 was a huge success for everyone involved. Nearly 400 members, advisors, and guests representing 47 chapters were in the Capitol City for the convention which was hosted by Alpha Gamma Pi. In her convention summary, chapter advisor Mary Kohls said: "Congratulations to the chapter for an outstanding Texas Regional Convention. As host chapter the teamwork was very evident as everything went smoothly. The chapter received a plaque in recognition of our hard work."

The chapter was also named a **Top Chapter** which is based on outstanding Scholarship, Leadership, and Service. The chapter entered essays in each category, which recorded the activities and projects the chapter completed from January 1, 2005 thru December 31, 2005. The International office of Phi Theta Kappa judged all chapter entries.

Other awards the chapter or individuals received included:

- **5 Star Chapter** - the highest level of chapter achievement.
- **Silver Pinnacle Award** - which means the chapter inducted 10% more members in 2005 than in 2004.
- **Mary Kohls** received the **Most Distinguished Advisor** award.
- **Darnell Robinson** was honored by being placed in the **Texas Hall of Honor** - the chapter had nominated him for Outstanding Chapter Officer.
- **Judy Arriaga (alumna)** - was installed as **President** of the Phi Theta Kappa **Texas Regional Alumni Association**.
- **Charter Members** of the new **District V Hall of Honor** are:
 - Ruby Becerra
 - You-Lan Bribach
 - Homa Caldwell-Tomas
 - Darnell Robinson
 - Daniel Soza
 - Arthur Vargas
 - Mary Kohls

In addition, Alpha Gamma Pi was elected **District V Vice President** for the **2006-2007** term, and **Thomas Upchurch** was elected to fill the position.

And the Winner is . . .

The story of Alpha Gamma Pi's winning the election for Vice President of District V is typical of how most successful things are done - through teamwork and a spirit of cooperation. It started with the guidelines furnished by Phi Theta Kappa: A skit of not over three minutes demonstrating why the chapter should be elected, and all chapter members must participate. A brain-storming session produced the idea of using a comic version of "College Jeopardy." Contestants April Parker and Tom Upchurch would always give wrong answers. April, acting totally out of character, was the dumb blonde who could never quite figure out how to play the game! Tom would provide answers that were absolute nonsense, then Charles Kincaid would save the day with the right answer - which was always "Alpha Gamma Pi"! Roland Brown played the part of Alex (but without Alex's full head of gray hair!) asking the questions and playfully scolding April for never quite "getting it." There were lots of laughs and it must have worked - Alpha Gamma Pi won the election. Later, **Thomas Upchurch** was elected by the chapter to be the **Vice President of District V** for the coming year. Congrats to all!

The Kings of Spoken Word

The Kings of Spoken Word II, the entertainment centerpiece presented by Alpha Gamma Pi as the convention's host chapter, played to a "standing room only" crowd at ACC's Eastview campus. Even the upper deck balcony seats were nearly filled with those enjoying the show. Chapter volunteers earned many hours by, among other things, providing food and drink for everyone, and then doing the necessary cleanup when it was all over. Ruby Becerra, Chair of the program said: "A Big Thank You to all the members and officers that participated, donated or volunteered in any way with The Kings of Spoken Word II event held at the Eastview Campus on March 10th. The event was a HUGE SUCCESS! I cannot express in words how appreciative I am that everyone helped out and did their part to make this event AWESOME! Once again THANK YOU for everything you all did"! Ruby's organizing skills and friendly way with volunteers was a fine example of leadership, while the cheerful work of the volunteers was good service and fellowship at its finest. To use an old cliché, "a good time was had by all."

Onward and Upward - To Seattle

Following the very successful Texas Regional Convention in March, Alpha Gamma Pi's next opportunity to shine will be at the 88th annual International Phi Theta Kappa Convention to be held April 20-22 in Seattle, Washington. Alpha Gamma Pi is very proud of our own Arthur Vargas, who will preside over the affair as the International President. Alpha Gamma Pi members thoughtfully wrote and submitted chapter nominations for the Phi Theta Kappa Hallmarks. Individually, Mary Kohls was nominated for the Distinguished Advisor Award, Darnell Robinson was nominated for Outstanding Chapter Officer, and Amanda Blevins was nominated as our Outstanding Chapter Member. We wish all of our nominees SUCCESS IN SEATTLE!



Previews of Coming Attractions: April, 2006

Tuesday, April 4: PIN Bake Sale 12-3 pm, Julie @970-5162 to volunteer or donate

Wednesday, April 5: Blood Drives: HBC 8:30-11:30 am, RGC 2-6 pm, CYP 8am-4pm

Friday, April 7: NRG 4136: Officers 6 pm, General 7 pm, GUEST SPEAKER: Safe Place

Tuesday, April 11: Blood Drive: RVS 9 am-12 pm

Wednesday, April 12: Blood Drives: EVC 8:30-11:30 am, NRG 2-6 pm

Thursday, April 13: Blood Drive: PIN 9 am-1 pm,

Thursday, April 13, TX Baptist Children's Home Easter 4 pm 'til ? Amanda @630-6011

Thursday, April 13: Susan G Komen Workday, NRG 4-9 PM, Julie @ 970-5162

Friday, April 14: RGC 343: Officers 6 pm, General 7 pm, GUEST SPEAKER: Susan G Komen Foundation

Thursday, April 20-Saturday, April 22, 88th International Convention in Seattle, Washington

Friday, April 21: No Austin meeting due to Seattle Convention

Sat/Sun Overnight, April 22/23: Relay for Life, Round Rock Dell Diamond 7 PM-7 AM; See page 4

Monday, April 24: Susan G Komen Workday, NRG 4-7 PM, Julie @ 970-5162

Thursday, April 27: Who's Who & Night in the Life

Friday, April 28: HBC 103.2: Officers 2-2:30 pm, General 2:30-4 pm, GUEST SPEAKER: Consumer Credit Counseling, Participation Records due, officer nominations, LOP Scholarship applications due

Fri/Sat Overnight, April 28/29: Relay for Life, Pflugerville & two in Austin; See page 4

Saturday, April 29: EYORE'S BIRTHDAY: Pease Park Sunup to Sundown, Come join the fun!

See Page four for special section on Relay for Life events sponsored by our chapter

THIS IS A MONTHLY OVERVIEW; FOR LATEST DETAILS, PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITES:

Alpha Gamma Pi: www.austincc.edu/ptk

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/alphagammapi_ptk/

Produced for Alpha Gamma Pi

By Roland Brown, PR Officer

512-301-3824 Phone or Fax

rolbrown@austin.rr.com

About Relay for Life

Relay For Life® is a fun-filled overnight event designed to celebrate survivorship and raise money to help the American Cancer Society save lives, help those who have been touched by cancer, and empower individuals to fight back against this disease. During the event, teams of people gather at schools, fairgrounds, or parks and take turns walking or running laps. Each team keeps at least one team member on the track at all times.

Relay is much more than a walk around a track. It is a time to remember those lost to cancer and celebrate those who have survived. It is a night for people who have shared the same experience to comfort and console one another.

Relay gives you the power to help accelerate the Society's advancement toward a future where cancer doesn't take the lives of our friends and family.

Sign up today to become a part of the Relay phenomenon. Together we can accelerate the progress to a cancer-free future.

Phi Theta Kappa Relay for Life Teams



All Events Begin at 7 PM and End at 7 AM

April 22 & 23 (Saturday & Sunday)

Round Rock, Dell Diamond

Phi Theta Kappa - ACC (Team 1): Cassandra Haney

Phi Theta Kappa - ACC (Team 2): Crystal Jahoor

Phi Theta Kappa - ACC (Team 3): Yolanda Zabaneh

April 28 & 29 (Friday & Saturday)

Pflugerville, Park Crest Middle School

Phi Theta Kappa - ACC (Team 1): Adam Pate

Phi Theta Kappa - ACC (Team 2): Cassandra Haney

Phi Theta Kappa - ACC (Team 3): Julie Thomas

April 28 & 29 (Friday & Saturday)

East Austin, Nelson Field

Phi Theta Kappa - ACC (Team 1): Keisha Chambers

Phi Theta Kappa - ACC (Team 2): Shanta Odu

Phi Theta Kappa - ACC (Team 3): Arthur Vargas

April 28 & 29 (Friday & Saturday)

Austin, School for the Deaf

Phi Theta Kappa - ACC (Team 1): Melissa McKinnon