

ALPHA BITS FROM ALPHA GAMMA PI CHAPTER

May 2006

Volume 3, Issue 3

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

Professor Mary Kohls Wins Distinguished Advisor Awards

Austin Community College Professor Mary Kohls has received two separate *Distinguished Advisor* awards from Phi Theta Kappa, the International Honor Society for Community and Two-Year Colleges. The popular professor was nominated by her students in formal competitions held to honor outstanding chapter advisors.

At the recently concluded Phi Theta Kappa International Convention held in Seattle, Washington, Professor Kohls was designated *Distinguished Advisor* by the International Organization. She was first honored as *Distinguished Advisor* at the annual convention of the Texas Region of Phi Theta Kappa held in Austin March 9 through 12, 2006.

These two honors were awarded in recognition of her work with many honor students over the last twenty years. Under her guidance, the Alpha Gamma Pi chapter at ACC has won numerous awards as an outstanding chapter and was recognized at the Seattle Convention as one of the *Top 100 Chapters* out of nearly 1200 chapters worldwide.

One example of Mary's keen observation powers was when she quickly recognized the potential of Arthur Vargas to become an outstanding member. With her guidance, he progressively held posts as Chapter President, Regional President, and finally International President, the organization's highest honor for student members. Vargas has traveled widely during his year as International President, representing Phi Theta Kappa at many functions.

In addition to her many years of dedicated service to Phi Theta Kappa, Professor Kohls is Chair of the Computing Department at Austin Community College.

Conquering Cancer: Continuing the Fight:

The Honor Society's Executive Director, Rod Risley, highlighted Phi Theta Kappa's many contributions in the fight against cancer and announced the newest challenge for Phi Theta Kappa chapters: To raise \$10 million for the American Cancer Society by 2018. Phi Theta Kappa then presented a check for \$1,314,214.00 to American Cancer Society representatives Kristen Solt and Andrew Huff. They gratefully accepted, saying "No other organization has stepped up like Phi Theta Kappa and we thank you for that - you have truly embodied the spirit of service."

Conquering Cancer: Continuing the Fight: (continued)

When Emmy Award-winning journalist Cokie Roberts took the stage as the Keynote Speaker for the Second General Session, her speech stressed the importance of the fight against cancer. She discussed her own battle with breast cancer as well as the loss of her sister to melanoma, a tragedy that fueled her involvement in raising awareness, education, and involvement of the issue. Recognizing the efforts of Phi Theta Kappa, Roberts said "I want to congratulate you on what you've been doing - and urge you on to make you understand what a tremendous difference you are making."

A Message from Our Chapter President

Induction is just around the corner! Don't miss out on this once in a life time opportunity to showcase all your hard work and academic achievement. This year, Inductions will be held for the first time ever at Eastview Campus in the Science Building (Building 8000) Multipurpose Room. This is a formal event so make sure to put on your best dressed shoes! Also, please remember that we are always promoting the fight against hunger and illiteracy, so don't forget to bring canned food donations and used unwanted books to Induction. I know we will make this our best Induction yet! Hope to see all of you there, Homa

And (partly) from International:



In 2005, chapters collected over 178,000 food items and over 90,000 books nationwide. However, despite the tremendous impact members continue to make through Project Graduation, hunger and low literacy rates remain in the forefront as two of the most pressing societal problems facing the United States and many other countries today. If you can't sell your textbooks or would rather donate them to a worthy cause, please consider bringing them with you to our Induction ceremony on May 7 at the Eastview campus; someone will be very grateful. Your canned food donations will help hungry people right here in Austin and Central Texas.

Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Named Distinguished Partner

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation was honored at Phi Theta Kappa's International Convention in Seattle as the recipient of the 2006 Alliance for Educational Excellence Distinguished Partner Award. The Foundation was saluted for its leadership in providing outstanding scholarships to community college graduates, and for spearheading programs designed to improve access to selective four-year colleges and universities for low-income, high achieving community college students. **The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation annually awards approximately 25 scholarships for as much as \$30,000 per year to individual community college students for baccalaureate degree studies.** Phi Theta Kappa Executive Director Rod A. Risley presented the Distinguished Partner Award to Dr. Matthew Quinn, Executive Director of the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation.

A Fond Farewell

In less than two weeks, some Alpha Gamma Pi members will bid a fond "adios" to Austin Community College. Some will graduate and go into the work force, many will graduate and/or transfer to four-year colleges. All would like to express thanks to our "other family" with whom we have planned, worked and played. It's

A Fond Farewell (continued)

been a great experience, and thanks for the memories. In leaving, we would encourage you to work hard, respect each other, and be good team players. If you do, success will be your reward!

Officer Nominations and Elections for Fall 2006 Semester

The last regular Alpha Gamma Pi meeting for this semester will be held next Friday, May 5, at Rio Grande Campus, Room 343 at 6 PM for Officers & 7 PM for Members. That will be the last opportunity for nominations for officer positions prior to the election on May 7, just prior to Induction. If you'd like to toss a hat in the ring, be ready to nominate.

Known candidates for the positions are listed below:

President: Ruby Becerra, April Parker, Julie Thomas
Secretary: Lori Macauley
Historian: Hillary Hoffman, Jennifer Palmer-Lee
Treasurer: Jacqueline Hadnot, Sarah Suddeth
Parliamentarian: Michele Pardo
Public Relations: Tom Upchurch, Cordula Wilforth
Student Life: Misty Dean, Nona Nixon
VP's by Campus:
CYP: Amanda McGee, Randi Spears
EVC: (2) None
NRG: (2) Amanda Blevins, John Cortez, Daniel Rosiles, Joel Scott
PIN: Melissa McKinnon
RGC: (2) Susan Dorman, Charles Kincaid
RRHEC: Amy Bradley
RVS: Patrick Tighe
SAC: None

Successful Alpha Gamma Pi Fund Raisers

The **Relay for Life** Events which were held over Friday night, April 28/29, had to be moved inside due to heavy rains in the Austin area very early Saturday morning. The event at Nelson Field was postponed and will be held this coming Friday/Saturday, May 5/6 at 7 PM. Of those which were held, incomplete reports show over \$1500 was raised for the American Cancer Society.

Eeyore's Birthday Party had clear sailing after the storms early Saturday morning cleared out the skies and turned them a beautiful blue for the rest of the day. A heart-felt **Thank You** to everyone who helped in any way with this project. More than \$2700 was raised for Alpha Gamma Pi scholarships, making this our most successful fund-raiser ever!



Previews of Coming Attractions: May, 2006

Friday, May 5: Rio Grande Campus, Room 343, 6/7 PM: Last regular meeting of the semester; final nomination opportunity for 2006 Fall officer positions.

Sunday, May 7: Eastview Campus, Science Building, Multipurpose Room: 1 PM

- (1) Induction of New Members, Election & installation of Officers; Induction ceremony begins at 2 PM; **General members please be there @ 1 PM** to allow for voting, deposit of books and canned food donations, and lining up in proper order for the procession into the auditorium. **All Officers please arrive at 10 AM to help set everything up.**
- (2) Project Graduation: Please be generous with your donation of canned foods and books to "Feed a Body; Feed a Mind"
- (3) After the Induction Ceremony, everyone is invited to gather for a "Strictly Social gathering" at Dave & Buster's on North MoPac. It is emphasized that this is in no way officially connected with Phi Theta Kappa. Its purpose is to simply relax and get a little better acquainted with each other. Everybody is welcome, but if you bring small children, please supervise them carefully.

Thursday, May 11: Palmer Events Center @ 7 PM: Austin Community College Commencement; Graduates please arrive at 6 PM. Graduates please use North Entrance; guests please use South Entrance. A reception will be held in the Lobby after the ceremony. Parking is free.

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

See Page 5 for Alpha Gamma Pi's Seattle Contingent - Lookin' Good!

Alpha Gamma Pi in Seattle - All Dressed Up

Left to Right: Daniel Soza, Homa Caldwell-Tomas, Reed Peoples, Amanda Blevins, Mary Kohls holding her Distinguished Advisor Award, Judy Arriaga, Julie Thomas, April Parker, and Thomas Upchurch.

