



Alpha Bits

Alpha Gamma Pi Chapter Newsletter

Volume No. 1

Issue No. 3

Date 2-21-04 to 3-5-04

Upcoming Chapter Events

Feb. 27th

Chapter Meeting

Will be held at the Riverside Campus (RVS), in Building "G", Room #8100 (there are two entrances to this room!)

2:00 – 2:30 – Officer's Meeting
2:30 – 3:30PM General Meeting

Be sure to bring your Orientation Handbook/Participation Record so that you can receive credit for attending the meeting as well as any donations you bring.

Please see the attached 'donations wanted' list for ideas of items to bring to this meeting. Everything is needed for the various local Charities and Organizations our Chapter helps with throughout the year.

Don't forget to [e-mail us \(deanna.root@ptk.org\)](mailto:deanna.root@ptk.org) if you can't make the meeting, that way we can get any information to you that you may have missed!

March 5th

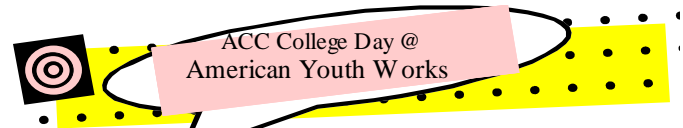
Chapter Meeting

Will be held at the Rio Grande Campus (RGC) in Room #320.

6:00-7:00PM – Officer's Meeting
7:00 – 8:00PM – General Meeting

March 5th

Student Recruitment



▶ The Student Recruitment Office @ ACC

Cordially invites you to attend this spectacular event.

ACC College Day

American Youth Works

Friday, March 5, 2004

10:30 am – 2:00 pm

Confirm your participation by:

Wed., Feb. 25th, 2004

Contact:
Reina V. Gallegos

Phone: (512) 223 -7703
Email: rgallego@austinctcc.edu

We will be representing Phi Theta Kappa and Austin Community College at a Recruitment Fair to be held at American Youth Works (AYW) on Friday, March 5th from 10:30AM – 2:00PM.

This is a great outreach opportunity to show people just how diverse ACC is, and what a great opportunity joining Phi Theta Kappa holds!

For more information contact Chair Bertha Saldana (the_ptk_kid@hotmail.com) or Co-chair Tanya "Red" Willoughby (tanya.willoughby@ptk.org).

If you are interested in helping you must RSVP either with one of the Committee Chair/Co-chairs or with Reina V. Gallegos, Specialist – Office of Student Recruitment: (512) 223-7703 or via e-mail at: (rgallego@austinctcc.edu).

From the Chapter President



As we move into the Spring 2004 semester, we will complete our final avenue of the Honors Study Topic: "Dimensions and Directions of Health: Choices in the Maze", while implementing the International Service Program, "Conquering Cancer". Our focus is to

promote health awareness and make better choices about our health.

Opportunities for chapter recognition are also available to those members who represent the four hallmarks of *Scholarship, Leadership, Fellowship* and *Service*. Could that be you? We are looking for individuals who are interested in becoming a Chapter Officer or chairing a committee for the upcoming Fall 2004 Semester. Be sure to contact your officers and committee chairs/co-chairs to get involved in campus and chapter activities.

If you are interested, you will definitely want to participate in the upcoming Regional convention in Houston, Texas. The chapter is excited in running for the Texas Regional President position. (Signup Deadline for the Texas Regional Convention is Feb 24).

We will be heading to Minneapolis, Minnesota for the 86th Annual International Convention. (Signup Deadline for International is Feb. 27). Join us, as we support our Public Relations Officer, Deanna M. Root, as she plans on representing Phi Theta Kappa, as a Candidate for International President.

I encourage you to take advantage of the many opportunities that Phi Theta Kappa has to offer. The success that Alpha Gamma Pi has achieved is a result of the intense motivation, dedication, and teamwork that has evolved from its Officer team and Members.

Your active role will help us to maintain and continue the legacy of success that Alpha Gamma Pi represents.

Congratulations on your journey with Phi Theta Kappa. Good Luck!

Arthur Vargas (arthur.vargas@ptk.org)
Alpha Gamma Pi Chapter President

Chapter News

We need your photos!

Kingwood College is putting together a slide show presentation that will be shown at the Texas Regional Convention (March 11-13, 2004 in Houston, Texas). Here's your chance to participate and select the picture(s) that you want the entire Texas Region to see!

Give your photos to Velvet Webb at a meeting, or e-mail them to her (velvet.webb@ptk.org) by Thursday, February 26th. Please include your name and "ACC – Alpha Gamma Pi" in the e-mail.

2004 All-Texas Academic Team

Congratulations to Chapter Officers Arthur Vargas (President) and Anna Burroughs (Parliamentarian) who were nominated to the 2004 All-Texas Academic Team.

Your hard work and dedication to Phi Theta Kappa are greatly appreciated- keep up the great work!

PTK Member launches non-profit for Autistic individuals and their families.

Katherine Ann Roe Sainz has a lofty goal – to launch a new non-profit organization titled "Big Sky Farm".

Big Sky farm is in the process of accepting applications from individuals and groups to work on and build cottages that will eventually be interconnected to provide recreational-tactile therapy, classroom space, and camp facilities for low-income Autistic individuals and their families.

Big Sky farm is also seeking financial assistance to help offset the costs of starting a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

If you are interested in more information, helping to build, or making a financial contribution, please contact Katherine at ksain001@waldenu.edu, and check out the Big Sky Farm website for more information.
<http://www.bigskyfarm.4t.com/>

Deadlines, deadlines

Feb. 24th – Signup to Texas Regional Convention
Feb. 27th – Signup for International Convention
Feb. 27th – Who's Who Application/Nominations

Committee Spotlight

Teacher's Excellence

Phi Theta Kappa members are known for striving to go "above and beyond" the call of duty. Oftentimes students are inspired by a peer, a work of art, and more often – a professor.

As a society focused on the Four Hallmarks of "Scholarship, Leadership, Fellowship, and Service" we do our best to recognize the Hallmark of Scholarship in our Chapter Members, Officers, Advisors, and our Professors.

At a community college, recognition is ever more so important to show that we are a "real" institution and that our Professors are just as good (if not sometimes better) than educators at a 4-year institution.

Because of this, our Chapter has created a "Teachers Excellence" Committee. The Committee is comprised of Chapter Officers, Members, and Prospective Members who are interested in reviewing essays written BY students nominating Austin Community College professors for the "Teachers Excellence" award.

We are in need of additional students who are interested in reviewing these essays and applications so that we can best and objectively select the ACC Professor who exemplifies quality teaching.

However, if you are interested in NOMINATING a professor, we also need you, but please keep in mind that you will not be able to judge the essays if you nominate.

This is a unique opportunity that gives students the chance to recognize and appreciate a Professor who has inspired them!

If you would like to join the Teachers Excellence Committee, or would like to nominate a Professor, please talk to Chair Florin Vasile (florinv@earthlink.net), or Co-chair Ramin Pouriran (ramin_pouriran@hotmail.com).

Town Lake Animal Center “Animal of the Alpha Bits”



<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/tlac/default.cfm>

Each newsletter we will be focusing on an animal available for adoption at the Town Lake Animal Center (TLAC).

Even if you are not able to give an animal a loving home and a second chance, please take a moment to read on, encourage others to adopt, and of course to spay/neuter their pets.

We are also **always** accepting animal-related donations which will be given to the TLAC to help them offset the costs of keeping these animals safe until they are adopted (or until, sadly enough, they are euthanized due to animal overpopulation and lack of funding for TLAC).



Meet “Sweet Pea” she is a spayed female, brown shorthair tabby and domestic tortoise shell mix. She is approximately 6 years old, has her tags and microchip, and is ready for a caring home! Her ID # is A335570, and if you would like to go and see her in person she will be in Kennel AB-64. If you would like to adopt her, please call (512) 972-4PET. When calling please refer to Sweet Pea’s animal ID number.

The sooner you call the better- even if you have to leave a message. Some of these animals have been in ‘adoption’ for long periods of time and their time is sadly running out! ☹

TLAC euthanizes 11,000 (50%) of the animals they receive each year. PLEASE do your part by adopting, donating, educating, and spay/neutering your animals.

An adoption success story!

- By Deanna M. Root, Pi Public Relations Officer



“Schizer” a.k.a Poop-Poop was adopted from Town Lake Animal Center in August 2003. When I first brought her home she had an upper respiratory infection. Which started to get worse.

The second day home after her adoption, I had to take her to the vet- she was having seizures and acting very lethargic. The news wasn’t good- her infection had spread to be a lower respiratory infection and the seizures were a result of an abnormally high fever.

Every day for a week I took Poop-Poop to the vet to get shots of antibiotic and fluids, and we changed her medicine often. When her breathing was especially bad I would sit in the bathroom with her while running the hot water to let the steam open up her lungs. At night I would have to keep her warm under blankets, and every

day I found myself cleaning up little poopy-spots from where she'd sat on the carpet with her runny rear end.

After nearly two weeks of treatment, special food, and LOTS of round the clock attention, she started to get better. Although her voice was still raspy and her seizures continued (and possibly would for the rest of her life due to brain damage from the high fever), she was still a playful and loving kitten.

A month after her adoption, Poop-Poop was putting on weight by the pound, and my bank account was nearly \$600 lighter from veterinary bills.

To this day Poop-Poop still has the occasional seizure, and no voice (except when she's getting her temperature taken at the vet *ouch*!), but she's a happy, healthy 7 ½ month old kitty.

She has been to several Phi Theta Kappa events, and is happy at home playing with my other 3 cats Spike, Serendipity, and Soleil.

Additional Info. About Adoption



While this story isn't uncommon – many shelter animals contract upper respiratory infections due to close confinement next to so many other animals – it is uncommon for one to get this sick.

FACT: Respiratory infections in cats are similar to colds in humans. Some people can kick them quite easily, some need antibiotics, and others get VERY sick as a result.

If you see an animal you would like to adopt, don't turn it away simply because of a small infection – most of the time 1-2 weeks of antibiotics will take care of the problem, and the shelter will oftentimes send you home with a free supply of what you need.

TLAC also offers 1 month of free “Sheltercare” Pet Insurance. Upon adoption of your new pet you will receive an activation code. 48 hours after activating your policy, you are covered for things such as infections, injuries, etc. for any amount over \$50.

Unfortunately, because Poop had gotten sick so quickly after adopting her, I had not registered my pet-policy in time so she was not covered.

I encourage everyone to adopt an animal, and to be sure to register for the free month of Sheltercare – it's a

valuable pet insurance policy and would have saved me a lot of money.

Adoption hours at TLAC are from 11:30AM – 7:00PM Weekdays and 11:30AM – 5:00PM Weekends. Standard adoption fees are \$75, and the animals come with their first shots and a microchip.

TLAC will call your apartment complex (or landlord, parents, etc.) and say “Does this property accept pets of _____ kind” (e.g.: cats, large dogs, small dogs). If they answer “Yes”, you're in the clear. The common misconception is that they call and say “Can John Doe in apartment #112 have a dog? *They do not do this.*”

Other considerations TLAC makes is if you have any other pets, they will call and ask your pets veterinarian how you're doing. This is to make sure there aren't any animal abuse, neglect, etc. issues they should know about.

Special Thank-You's

Alpha Gamma Pi is fortunate to have a very dedicated member base. Many of our alumni members and past Chapter Officers continue to be involved long after their transfer and/or graduation from Austin Community College, or after they have completed their duties as a Chapter Officer.

I would like to take a moment to thank Carl Carter, Judy Arriaga, Velvet Webb, and Daniel Soza all past Chapter Presidents who have chosen to continue their active involvement in Phi Theta Kappa.

Carl Carter is helping in the fight against Muscular Dystrophy by raising money for the MD Walk, Judy Arriaga has helped with this years Hallmark Award applications and attends Chapter meetings whenever she can, Velvet Webb currently serves as Chapter Co-Treasurer, and also is the representative for our Chapter as District V Vice President, and Daniel Soza continues to be a supportive member Chairing the Austin Energy Science Fair and In School Mentoring committees.

I would also like to thank Alpha Gamma Pi alumnus Kendra Crispin for her continued support of our Chapter. Although Kendra transferred from ACC to the University of Texas over a year ago, she continues to attend Chapter meetings and events despite her busy schedule. She has even been working towards starting an Alumni Chapter at the University of Texas while continuing the pursuit of higher education.

Website Resources

Alpha Gamma Pi Chapter Website:
www.austincc.edu/ptk

Official Phi Theta Kappa Website:

www.ptk.org

Texas Region Phi Theta Kappa Website:

www.txptk.org

Texas Regional Convention Website:

www.txptk.org/events/regional/convention/

86th Annual International Convention Website:

<http://convention.ptk.org/>

ACC Student Life Website:

<http://www2.austincc.edu/life4u/index.htm>

New Member Spotlight



Huy Ngoc Nguyen, one of our new members, drew this sketch of a puppy. Huy is a member of the Yearbook, Treefolks, Austin Shine & Show, Recognitions, Social Events, Student Recruitment, Fit for Life, Austin Energy Science Fair, State Hospital, Muscular Dystrophy, MADD, Any Baby Can, Women's Health Awareness, USA Today Case Study Challenge, Teacher's Excellence, Special Olympics, Product Induction, In School Mentoring, and Honors Study Topic Committees!

ATTENTION: If you would like to be featured in the "New Member Spotlight" please send your information to Public Relations Officer Deanna M. Root (deanna.root@ptk.org). Be sure to include your name, major, which campuses you attend, and the committees you are currently a member of. If you have any photos, sketches, a website - anything, please also send it!

Donation Opportunities

We are always accepting the following donations at Chapter Meetings:

Books	Magazines	Diapers
Coats	Canned Food Items	Children's Toys
Dog/Cat Food	Sleeping Bags	Batteries

Paper Towels	DVD or VHS Movies	Toiletry Items
Blankets	School Supplies	Gift Certificates
Pennies	Old Newspapers	Pet Toys
Pillows	Blank Audio Tapes	Pull Tabs
Text Books	Air/Foam Mattresses	Money
Clothing	Pet carriers or pet beds	Umbrellas
Paper Napkins	Paper plates	Plastic ware

And of course snacks, and beverages for meetings!

You will receive credit for everything you donate!

Transfer Scholarship Focus

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Texas A&M University – Commerce

400 Phi Theta Kappa scholarships are available. Students must have a minimum of 45 hours of transferable college credit, a minimum GPA of 3.0, and be a member of Phi Theta Kappa. This scholarship is valued at \$5,000. This scholarship applies \$750 towards tuition and fees per semester and \$500 towards on-campus housing costs per semester. This scholarship is renewable each semester for a maximum of four (4) semesters (fall and spring) for students who maintain a semester GPA of 3.0 or higher for at least 15 hours of coursework each semester at A&M-Commerce. Once at A&M-Commerce, the student must be an active member in the Pi of Texas Alumni Association.

*The Phi Theta Kappa scholarship is renewable for a maximum of four (4) semesters (fall and spring) for students who successfully complete 15 A&M-Commerce credit hours each semester, maintain a 3.0 semester and cumulative GPA, and complete the following active membership requirements for the Pi of Texas Alumni Association at A&M-Commerce: attend 1 meeting per month; attend/participate in a minimum of 3 fundraisers per semester; attend/participate in a minimum of 2 "culture" activities per semester; attend/participate in a minimum of 1 committee per semester; attend/participate in a minimum of 1 Honors Topic event each semester.

Deadline: Priority deadline is June 1st

Phi Theta Kappa All-USA/All-State Academic Scholarship

Students who are nominated for the All-USA Academic Team or the All-State Academic Team for the state in which the student resides will receive an additional \$3,000 scholarship (\$750 toward tuition and fees for four (4) semesters-fall and spring.) The student must meet all requirements for the Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship as well as submit documentation of designation as a member of the All-USA and/or All-State Academic Team. Students receiving this

scholarship must meet the renewal requirements for the Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship as stated above.

Ongoing Chapter Events

Women's Health Awareness Committee



Meetings are 1st Tuesday of every month 9:00 -10:00AM & 10:35 – 11:35AM and on the 1st Thursday of every month 1:20 – 2:20PM.

These are discussion events where you will have the opportunity to bring in articles or discuss current issues affecting women's health today.

Both men and women are invited to participate.

For more information, contact Chair Beth Cordova-Aulds cordovaaulds360@hotmail.com or Co-chair Shiva Pejman Aryan shinaz62@yahoo.com.

Chapter Fun!



Alpha Gamma Pi getting their groove on at the dance during the Texas Leadership Conference at Texas A&M University – Commerce.

Don't forget to sign up to attend *the Texas Regional Convention!* Our Chapter is running for Texas Regional President, and there will be a lot of fun in store. This year we will be going to the Houston Ballet to see ["Tales of Texas"](#), and on the last day there will be a formal dinner and dance.

For more information check out the Texas Phi Theta Kappa website, read the message from the Chapter President in this Newsletter, or talk to any Chapter Officer!