



2007 Upsilon Mu Officers

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Dr. Jill Wright

The PTK Mission

To provide opportunity:

1. For the development of leadership and service
2. For lively fellowship in an intellectual climate for the exchange of ideas and ideals
3. For stimulation of interest in continuing academic excellence by recognizing and encouraging scholarship among students

Hello Phi Theta Kappans,

Welcome back! I hope your break was filled with family, friends, and even a little rest!

I am excited to be back and eager to get our Spring Semester underway. We have many upcoming events in which we will need volunteers, so please keep informed by attending general chapter meetings, checking the office window, or by reading your monthly newsletter. As always, if you need anything, please feel free to stop by the office, give us a call, or email any of us!

I look forward to a great semester with all of you,



Katie Hewitt
Upsilon Mu
President

Contact Phi Theta Kappa
Office hours are posted in
Student Activities 302A
694-5263 | hiphinews@gmail.com
Find us on Blackboard!

Congratulations Fall 2006 Inductees!

Welcome to Upsilon Mu ☺



Thoughts on Non-Traditional Students

Through the course of my life I have traversed an incredible and ever winding series of roller coaster ups and downs, unexpected twists and turns, lots of factories, and skilled/unskilled labor positions. Obviously it got me to where I am now, but the entire time I always wished that I could just go to college and get a degree in something that I liked and believed in. Up until just this past year, I was under the impression that you had to have a lot of money to be able to pursue a degree, and since I *totally* didn't, the Idea of obtaining a college education was but a distant dream to me. Until quite recently that is. Now, through a series of events in my life that even I would be hard pressed to explain, I find myself in the one place I always truly wanted to, but never thought I actually would, be..... I'm going to COLLEGE baby!!! Yesssssssssss!

Far too often, the very *idea* of the pursuit of a higher education is self sabotaged with thoughts like, "I'm too old to start going to college now," "I've already passed up my chance for that," or, "I couldn't afford to go to college even if I tried." In fact, the real truth is far brighter than that. There are endless financial aid and scholarship opportunities available to people of all demographics, and anyone can finance an education nowadays with just a little creativity and the slightest will to succeed. I'm not particularly a big fan of all those "self-help" gurus out there, but I once heard one make a comment

that I found to be rather intelligent and useful. The gentleman told a story of how he was talking with a woman who was unsatisfied with her life. The woman stated that she had always wanted to go to college and obtain a higher level of education, but that she was already over fifty and she saw her age as a prohibiting factor. She said, "I'm already fifty-one years old and it would take about five years to earn a degree, so at that rate I'd be fifty-six years old by the time I graduated!" And the gentleman calmly said to her, "Let me ask you this, love: How old will you be in five years if you *don't* go to college?"

Truth be told, it's never too late to begin earning a college degree, just as it's never too late to continue learning in your life. Indeed, we are all set on an inescapable path of learning and experience that continues right up until our very last breath on this earth. Bottom line, the time is ours; we can, ultimately, do with it whatever we want. It all comes down to personal choice in your own life, and we all have the right and ability to enrich our lives if we personally decide to do so, regardless of our chronological age. You really are "only as old as you feel" and nothing I can think of can make you feel more alive than the ever vibrant atmosphere of modern academia! There are even research studies beginning to emerge that show that the amount of time we spend in school has a direct correlation to the longevity of our lives! So get out there, I say, and live your life to the fullest, void of fear and unwanted self-defeat. After all, this is *your*

time, *your life*, and the opportunities are only as boundless as you are willing to allow them to be. Your chance to live your life to the fullest is RIGHT NOW, regardless of your present circumstances, or the year in which you were born.

It seems to me that what truly matters is that we focus on how much good we can do to effect the world in a positive way, and how much wisdom we are able to obtain and disseminate amongst us all in the short time that we are on this earth. The real and most meaningful challenge is figuring out how we can possibly leave this world as a little bit better place than before we got here. And when you think about it from this perspective, the more maturity you have to work with, the better off you'll be.—Jaime Casinova

Better World Books Pizza Party

You're invited to our first Fellowship event of the year, February 22nd at 7:00 p.m. at Woodview Commons! Just bring a Children's book to donate for Better World Books and join the fun! Contact Anne or Jaclyn for details.

Hallmarks in Action:

Service and Fellowship

Even though it happened back in September, it doesn't seem that long ago that I was scrambling at the last minute to get preparations in order for my first big PTK fundraiser: the concession stand at the Horticulture Club's Landscape and Garden Day. At one point, things seemed pretty bleak; I didn't think I'd *ever* get my responsibilities taken care of! But

instead of giving up (like I so desperately wanted to), I said a prayer and turned to my fellow board members for help. Sure enough, all the pieces fell into place, and the event was a success! Our concession stand made \$734.50, and we got the chance to meet and serve the people in our community. What could have been a disaster became an opportunity for me to learn about organizing an event and about trusting my wonderful fellow officers! —Jaclyn Lewis

Volunteers Needed!

Get in on the action *now* and earn credit towards your PTK Five Star Level. There may be more volunteer opportunities than are listed here, so contact us for more info.

Train Fair

Our last Train Fair was a great success, thanks to our enthusiastic volunteers who donated one Sunday morning to sell concessions and offer smiles and an upbeat attitude to our patrons. We need people to help get food and supply donations from local businesses and to work the day of the event. The Train Fair is Sunday, February 25th from 7:00 am to about 3:00. The morning shift lasts from 7:00-11:00, and the afternoon shift lasts from 11:00-3:00, though you may volunteer to work any amount of time you wish. Contact Sarah or Jaclyn for details.

Induction Refreshments

We need some volunteers to set up and serve refreshments at our Thursday, February 8th induction ceremony. Contact Katie for details.

Q & A: New Officers

For this month's Q & A, I am pleased to introduce to you our brand-new officers: Treasurer Tim Amstutz, Secretary Rachel Schmillen, and Communications Officer Jaime Casinova. Get acquainted with these hard-working Phi Theta Kappans and their unique personalities!

Tim Amstutz

Accounting

What do you want to do after college?

I want to become a corporate accountant, get married, and travel.



What do you like to do for fun?

My favorite hobbies are mountain biking and wilderness backpacking.

What is your favorite musical instrument?

My favorite musical instrument is the guitar.

Rachel Schmillen

Psychology, Spanish

Why did you want to become Secretary?

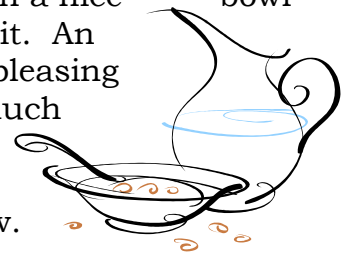
I am a compulsive list-maker and note-taker! Secretary is the perfect position for me to hold.

What do you want to do after college?

I'm just going to college for fun... I'm actually planning to marry rich and write books from the Italian villa I will make my hubby build me.

What is your favorite breakfast cereal?

I love Frosted Mini-Wheats. Not only are they a good source of fiber, they make such a lovely breakfast when served in a nice bowl with some fruit. An aesthetically pleasing meal tastes much better than a plain-looking one, you know.



If you find a spider indoors, do you ignore it, shoo it away, or squish it?

I like spiders, and find them fascinating. Upon finding one indoors, I generally observe it with interest before capturing it. I keep it as a pet for a few minutes, scare my younger sisters with it, have a good laugh at their expense, and then release the spider outdoors.

Which is worse, a splinter or a paper cut?

Paper cuts are the WORST, and I seem to always cut my knuckles. It's terrible since I can't help bending my fingers to write, type, tie my shoes, etc. It's amazing how such a small wound sustained by being careless with a sheet of paper can so effectively render someone helpless.

Jaime Casinova

Sociology, Communications

Why did you want to become Communications Officer?

I wanted to be an officer in PTK because I thought there would be a mutual exchange between myself and the society of bringing positive things to each other. I plan to do many good things for our school and the community at large through this position.

What do you want to do after college?

I like to say that I want to be an activist that eats every day.

Who is your favorite superhero?

My favorite superhero is definitely Captain Caveman. He has a million and one amazing things in his caveman club that he whip out in a



moment's notice. He has a great sense of humor. And hey, he hangs out with a supermodel rock band! What more could a guy ask for?

If you find a spider indoors, do you ignore it, shoo it away, or squish it?

When I find a spider crawling around indoors, I carefully pick it up, carry it outdoors, and release it on a plant or shrub that looks like a safe and desirable place for the creature. No lie, this is what I

actually do, every time. I think that all life should be considered sacred. Why don't they deserve a chance? Just because we don't understand them? They are a part of the ecosystem too, you know!

What is your favorite number?

My favorite number is the world population's ever fluctuating total, as that's the most important number to our interconnected web of human life. Yeah, all of us people, that's where the love flows.

Meetings

General Chapter Meetings are held the last Monday of every month at noon and at 5:30 in 304A.

There will be no Satellite Seminars this semester, so if you need Satellite Seminar credit for your Five Star Level, contact Jonathan for information about a substitute.

Keep America Beautiful Tip of the Month!

Avoid cranking up the heat this winter by decorating chilly rooms with warm colors, such as reds, yellows, and oranges. According to the Institute of Food and Agricultural Science at the University of Florida, "Color has a powerful influence on emotions and feelings that can affect the indoor temperature." You can save more money by painting your walls with lighter colors. Darker colored rooms need more light to become illuminated, and thus use more electricity. Read more about creating an energy-efficient living space through color online:

<<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FY024>>

Phi Theta Kappans Share Their Views to Help the College

We had the pleasure of inviting Dr. Arthur Rich, Dean of Student Development and Services, to the January General Chapter Meetings. As part of ICC's continuous efforts to improve student services, the AQIP Steering Committee (on which Dr. Rich serves) has formed a team devoted to improving the orientation process for incoming students. Dr. Rich spent time during the meeting asking for feedback from the Phi Theta Kappa membership about what they liked and disliked in regard to their own orientation process and what types of information would have been helpful to them. It is likely that some of our suggestions will be implemented as part of a new process as early as Fall Semester 2007!

The Executive Board of the Upsilon Mu chapter and the Advisors would like to thank the members for coming to help with this focus group. And, we would like to thank Dr. Rich for the great pizza that was served—nothing like a little food to get everyone's wheels turnin'! We are happy to be a part of such a worthy cause for future students!

Content Wanted!

Phi Theta Kappans such as you are among the brightest, most creative bunch on campus. So why shouldn't Hi-Phi News feature some of *your* fabulous work? *I* think it should!

I am personally inviting all poets, mathematicians, artists, journalists, sociologists, and all the rest of you to submit something of interest to be published in an upcoming issue of Hi-Phi News. Think of it as your starting place to being published, or just an easy way to show off what you've done.

If you'd like to contribute, but aren't sure what to submit, think about what you're passionate about. Jaime Casinova wrote an excellent column about Non-Traditional students in this issue, a topic he feels strongly about and has personal experience with. If you don't have time to actually write or draw something, then submit your ideas and I'd be delighted to research the topic and create something for you.

Imagine how cool it would be to have a wonderful mix of Phi Theta Kappan work in Hi-Phi News. It might have your comic strip, or your research on monarch butterflies, or your movie review, whatever it is you want to send in. Make it fun. Make it your own. I want to hear from you!

Send your submissions to me, Jaclyn, at hiphinews@gmail.com, or find me on Blackboard!