

Phi Theta Kappa

Alpha Kappa Omega Update

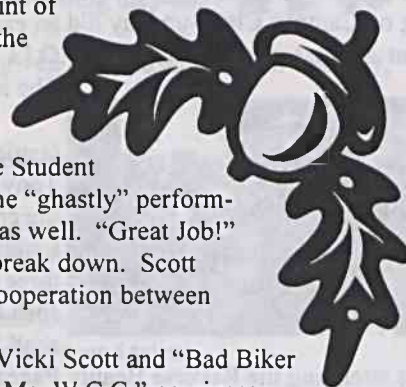
By: Laura E. Generous

As the year winds down and I take a look back at the activity of the past few months, I'm thankful for all the people who have made my first semester as Chapter President of Phi Theta Kappa such an exciting one!

October began with two fascinating Honors Scholars Presenters: historical musician Jan Oosting on the 5th and poet Georgia Rhoades on the 7th. After a brief conjunction with S.G.A., Phi Theta Kappa and several other clubs participated in Campus Clean Up. Thanks to those of you who turned out to keep our campus clean and green! Throughout the week, we also collected breakfast cereal, canned orange juice, and washing powders for Ebenezer Gardens Christian Children's Home. The generosity of all of you who contributed enabled P.T.K. to be the largest donor of goods and we were awarded \$50.00 from the S.G.A. for this accomplishment. I'm very proud of all of you who cared enough to make this drive successful. Thanks for allowing us to make a difference in the lives of these children. As October 23rd was National Make A Difference Day, this was another way for us to contribute to the community.

The following week was busier still, as our chapter strove to meet The Journey Challenge—a 20% increase in membership from last year. Setting up an information booth in the Student Commons allowed us to speak to students one-on-one and provide visibility in the four days before membership applications were due. Courtesy calls were also made of members Emily West, Vicki Scott, Michael Thornton, Emily Mullins, and the chapter officers, we successfully met our goal! Way to go Team Alpha Kappa Omega!

Thursday, October 28th was W.C.C.'s First Annual Fall Festival and P.T.K. joined in the fun with other campus organizations for an evening of Halloween festivities! Our officers raised \$50.00 in the sale of raffle tickets for a print of "Winter at Tharpe's Mill" donated by local artist Gene Johnston and members baked cakes for the Cake Walk and made goodies for the Bake Sale. Thanks to members Joan Hinson, Paula McNeil, Donna Shumate, and officers Jada Parsons and Joe Griffith for all of the yummy treats you donated! (Who knew that Joe *really* could bake?) By far, the Haunted House provided the most fun for us that night as we worked with a great group of first-year nursing students and the Student Ambassadors to make a hauntingly good time. Dr. Staten and Mr. Richey "cursed" us with some "ghastly" performances and Joe Griffith, Crystal Miller, Deborah Graybeal, and Robin Dyer were "truly ghoully" as well. "Great Job!" to Jada Parsons, Jordan Welborn, Fonda Cecile, and Michael Thornton who helped set-up and break down. Scott Johnson tells us that the festival was a huge success and the product of a lot of hard work and cooperation between twelve different campus organizations. We're glad that we could be a part of it all!



The second of November brought us an Honor Scholars debate between "Happy Homemaker" Vicki Scott and "Bad Biker Boy" Landon Jordan... a true battle to the finish. In the following week our very own "Mr. and Ms. W.C.C." nominees, Devin Staley and Jada Parsons, were voted first runners up in the two-day elections. Congratulations to both of them and thanks to all of you who voted!

The third week in November was a busy one as we held our orientation for new members on Tuesday. We discussed our service project, E.S.L. and Adult Literacy Tutoring, as well as the development of a Wilkes County Directory printed in Spanish. That Thursday was Housekeeper Appreciation Day and P.T.K. made signs and baked goodies to thank Hayes Hall housekeeper Cindy Pardue for the wonderful job she does each and every day. That evening we held our Fall Induction of new members, when we welcomed and congratulated thirty-seven new inductees into the Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter. (See Gracie Woods' article on this important event.) The induction was followed by a covered-dish supper in the Thompson Hall Commons.

With two days out of school for Thanksgiving, we were sure not to forget those in need. Working with the V.O.I.C.E. and the Ye Host Clubs, P.T.K. made food baskets for less fortunate families in the area. Rounding out the year with a blow-out Holiday Party on December 7th, we're sure to have a great Spring 2000 with the caring and dedicated members I've met so far. Good luck on the exams and enjoy a wonderful holiday season! See you

