EMPIRE STATE
PTK
June 2019 Issue

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WELCOME!

To our first issue of Empire State PTK! We wanted a way to reach our region and keep everyone connected, so we’ve created this newsletter. Here you’ll find updates about recent and upcoming events, important deadlines, as well as Chapter Spotlights so we know what you’ve been up to! Enjoy!
REGIONAL PRESIDENT:
KYLE REESE

Xi Kappa / Kingsborough Community College / Brooklyn

I'm a CUNY BA student, which means I get to create my own major. I'm studying Queer Psychosocial Research, which will also be my major when I transfer to Brooklyn College. I want to teach undergrads and graduate students and continue to research social problems that affect the LGBT community and develop methods to help remedy them.

I'd love for the region to be as connected as possible, for information to be readily available to all members, and for us to celebrate the huge amounts of diversity throughout each chapter. My favorite Hallmark is easily diversity. New York is the melting pot of America, and I can't think of a demographic that isn't represented here. I'm a queer transgender man and have been involved in equal rights activism since I was 13 (I'm old, that's a long time).

What is an interesting or weird fact about yourself?
There are a lot of weird things about me!!

What flavor pop tart do you feel is most like you?
Smores!

SOUTHERN VICE PRESIDENT:
SAMANTHA PARAJON

Chapter/College/City: Alpha Kappa Chapter/ Borough of Manhattan CC/ Manhattan, NY

I major in Dietetics and Nutrition. When I transfer, I plan to continue this major until I receive my master's degree. I may potentially minor in Pharmacology as well. I plan to become a Registered Dietitian Nutrition and provide help to those suffering from chronic diseases and/or conditions.

My goal for the region to help guide every chapter towards success, but also to inspire our members to break through limitations that we often place on ourselves every day.

My favorite Hallmark is Diversity. I relate to these hallmarks, however, I specifically relate to service because my goal in life has always been to provide and give back to communities. Service is something that fills my heart with joy and happiness.

What is an interesting or weird fact about yourself?
I have 8 cats and 3 hamsters.

What flavor pop tart do you feel is most like you?
Blueberry Poptart with no frosting.
WESTERN VICE PRESIDENT:
BEVERLY ESCOBAR GONZALEZ

Chapter/College/City: Alpha Gamma Nu/ Tompkins Cortland Community College/ Dryden

I am an International Business major, and plan to keep this major at my four-year university with a minor in law. I’d like to find a job in a company that I would feel comfortable with and that possibly have the chance to travel.

Some of the goals that I have for the region is to maintain together as a group as well as the region, no matter how different we are from each other.

Interesting fact: I’m from Mexico and speak two languages.

The Pop Tart that is most likely like me is the strawberry because I’m sweet and kind person that most people like to get to know. Strawberries have a beautiful design! For me, the dots mean that they have various characteristics.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:
LANA ESHO

Chapter/College/City: Alpha Gamma Nu / Tompkins Cortland Community College/ Dryden NY

I am currently studying Computer Science with hope to transfer to a four-year institution to major in marketing analysis and minor in psychology. I plan to manage an advertising industry or a tech company.

I want chapters of the NY region to have a sense of comradery, for us all to feel like a big family.

My favorite Hallmark is fellowship

As an African woman, I just started seeing representation of people like me on media and I have personally noticed the positive effects of this on people of color. We are becoming outspoken, standing our ground and ruling the world as we should. Also, there is a lot we can learn from each other about different cultures. Diversity is amazing and I’m glad we are beginning to notice that.

What is an interesting or weird fact about yourself? I have to finish shows and movies that I start, even though I think they are horrible.

What flavor pop tart do you feel is most like you? Confetti Cupcakes
INTRODUCING

ALUMNI REPRESENTATIVE: MICHELLE FERRAINO
Major: Biochemistry with Business Minor
I graduated from Fulton-Montgomery Community College in December 2018. This fall I will be starting at SUNY Oswego.
End Goal: Get a masters and probably a PhD. Enter the workforce in science for a while, and then end up working in higher education helping students discover their true passions.

Goals for the Region:
1. Increase regional alumni presence and alumni mentorship in active chapters (which is right now not really there.)
2. Embrace diversity as a region, and use diverse perspectives to help the region grow and graduate prepared, culturally aware; strong leaders.
3. Increase chapter activity, member involvement, and the reach of NY Phi Theta Kappa through diversity and service initiatives.

Favorite Hallmark: Oof that's a tough one. I'm definitely going to say service first because I deep passion to serve others and help people grow to be better people. However, I also love scholarship because I crave knowledge, and love integrating what I learn to help me better serve others. I believe true service is also a learning experience. I am very service oriented and love engaging others in PTK because of the sheer opportunity it presents to people to grow as a person and impact lives. It's a truly life changing opportunity. I also believe in the power of diversity and an open mind and believe that diverse perspectives and backgrounds are the key to rock solid foundation and plan.

Interesting Fact: I once hosted a TED Talk at my community college. (TEDx FMCC 2019.)

Pop Tart: Even though they're not my favorite, I'd say Hot Fudge Sundae. This is because there are variety, of flavors, textures, colors, and who could forget the sprinkles. I am a woman of a variety of interests, experiences, and views and I believe that the Hot Fudge Sundae Pop Tart best represents that. (Although, Fun Fact: S'mores and Brown Sugar and Cinnamon Pop Tarts are my favorite.)

CALL FOR CONTENT
We'd like to feature YOU each month!
Send us anything your chapter's been up to! We want to see important events, student achievements, and the wonderful ways you're serving your communities and encouraging diversity!
Send materials to:
newyorkregionptk@gmail.com
Wednesday, March 24th 2019, 80 scholars chosen from all across New York State’s community colleges came together at the Albany Capital Center to celebrate being chosen for the prestigious honor of being selected for the New York All-Academic Team.

The All-New York Academic Team is sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa, USA Today, and the Coca Cola Foundation among other sponsors. Students apply for the All-USA Academic Competition in the fall. The past fall’s application consists of a few short essays, questions about campus involvements, and one extended essay where the student discusses their most significant endeavor.

A designated nominator for each college can nominate up to four people out of the students who apply, a maximum of two students transferring upon graduation, and two students entering the workforce upon graduation. A student can be named to the First, Second, or Third Academic state team, depending on how the student ranks in the National All-USA competition.

If students do well in the national competition, they will rank highly state level, and can also be eligible for other awards and scholarship money on the national level. The highest-ranking transfer student in each state receives the Coca Cola New Century Transfer Scholarship. This year, that student was Michelle Ferraino from Fulton-Montgomery Community College. Likewise, the highest-ranking workforce student will receive the Coca-Cola New Century Workforce Scholarship.

This year’s winner was Nicole Marino from Suffolk County Community College Eastern Campus. High ranking students can also be named to the Coca-Cola Academic Team, ranking in Gold, Silver, and Bronze. This year’s Coca-Cola Gold Team members were Michelle Wilcox from Suffolk County Community College Eastern Campus and Sukhrob Abdushukurov from LaGuardia Community College. Matthew Roman from Borough of Manhattan Community College was named to the Coca-Cola Silver Team. Kathryn Hanson from Onondaga Community College and Kristen Quere from Suffolk County Community College Michael J. Grant Campus were named to the Coca-Cola Bronze Team. Students awarded the New Century Scholarships and Coca-Cola Academic Team are also recognized on the Catalyst Stage during the Parade of Scholars.

To be designated to the All-New York academic team is a great honor that says a great deal about a student’s character. These students tend to be highly involved and strong leaders who embody the spirit of their campuses and communities; the type of students who have a large impact. Students can apply for this award and many others through filling out the PTK Scholarship Application. Unlike last year, the PTK Scholarship is now open year-round, giving students much more time to apply and greater opportunity to earn the scholarship. The deadline to apply for the is October 25, 2019 at 6 PM Eastern Standard Time. The application only needs to be filled out once, and students can be eligible for the 2020 All-USA Academic Team, All-New York Academic Team, New Century, Coca-Cola Academic Team, and other national scholarships sponsored by companies such as GEICO and Oberndorf, and if chosen, will generally be notified between February and April.
This year's PTK Catalyst was held at Gaylord Resort and Conference center in Kissimmee, Florida. What an incredible experience! The set was beautiful, and we heard from some amazing speakers. Not to mention, meeting nearly 4,000 other Phi Theta Kappans from all over the world, and having the honor of witnessing our new Jamaican chapter be sworn in! Many well-deserved awards were given out, and our very own Onandaga Community College was named third most distinguished chapter in the entire organization! Last year's officer team was named a Distinguished Officer Team, and several individuals received awards as well. Congratulations!

Next year's annual conference will be held in Dallas, Texas. We hope to see you all there!

-Kyle Aaron Reese

Some of the Region's Awards

3rd Most Distinguished Chapter in the Society
Alpha Sigma Zeta, Onondaga Community College

Distinguished Chapter Award
Alpha Eta Psi, Suffolk County Community College, Eastern Campus
Alpha Sigma Zeta, Onondaga Community College

Distinguished Honors In Action Project
Alpha Kappa, Borough of Manhattan Community College
Alpha Sigma Zeta, Onondaga Community College

Distinguished Honors In Action Project – Theme Award
Theme 7: Power of Connection
Alpha Sigma Zeta, Onondaga Community College

Distinguished College Project Award
Alpha Eta Psi, Suffolk County Community College, Eastern Campus
Alpha Sigma Zeta, Onondaga Community College

Excellence in Fellowship
New York Region

Excellence in Membership Recruitment
New York Region

Distinguished Regional Officer Team
New York Regional Team, 2018-2019
Karen FIALLOS, Jeanelle Singh, Ariel Richard, Nick Contess

Distinguished Regional Officer
Ariel Richard – Executive Secretary
Nick Contess – Alumni Representative

Distinguished Officer Team
Mu Eta Chapter, Broome Community College
Alpha Sigma Zeta, Onondaga Community College

Distinguished Chapter Officer
Michelle Ferraino - Alpha Alpha Upsilon Chapter, Fulton- Montgomery Community College

Distinguished Chapter Member
Dawn Shefler, Mu Eta Chapter, Broome Community College
Upcoming Events

Mock Chapter
June 21 - 22

Fall Conference
October 18-20th

Spring Conference
March 13-15

Catalyst
April 2-4