Phi Theta Kappa
Honors Conference 2014

Frontiers and the Spirit of Exploration
New York Region
Suffolk County Community College
Ammerman Campus

October 17 – 19
CONFERENCE HOSTS
2014 OFFICERS AND ADVISORS
SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

EASTERN CAMPUS — ALPHA ETA XI CHAPTER
President—Josiah Hoshyla
Vice President—Gresa Shoshi
Faculty Advisors—Michael Boecherer & Jean Nicolas Pestieau

MICHAEL J. GRANT CAMPUS — ALPHA DELTA GAMMA CHAPTER
President—Emily Rooney
Vice President of Scholarship—Tricia Wildman
Vice President of Leadership—Harland Lundy
Vice President of Fellowship—Alvaro Gonzalez-Davila
Vice President of Service—Elisandra Fini
Vice President of Fundraising—Alyssa De Prospo
Faculty Advisors—Karen Dovell, Lisa Hamilton, & Tat Sang So

AMMERMAN CAMPUS — ALPHA ZETA NU CHAPTER
President—Nicholas Contess
Vice President of Scholarship—Melissa Burmester
Vice President of Leadership—Marissa Klassert
Vice President of Fellowship—Amie Bernstein
Vice President of Service—Jared Hudson
Fundraising Chairperson—Donna Ossenfort
Communications Chairperson—Brian Russell
Historian—Shailee Joshi
Faculty Advisors—Bridget Young & Heidi Kiley
PHI THETA KAPPA NEW YORK
REGIONAL TEAM
2014

President
Amie Bernstein

Southern Vice President
Kyria Aho

Northern Vice President
Elizabeth Brigham

Western Vice President
Theodore Carey

Executive Secretary
Rida Khan

Alumni Representative
Niaz Mosharraf

Regional Coordinator
Dr. Alex d’Erizans

Associate Regional Coordinator
Jodi Oriel
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, October 17, 2014

3:00pm - 6:00pm
Babylon Student Center (BSC) Lobby
Conference Check-in
Sponsored by Cedar Crest College

6:00pm - 6:45pm
Montauk Point Room, BSC
Dinner

First General Session
6:45pm - 9:00pm
Montauk Point Room, BSC
Host Chapter Welcome
First General Session Moderator
  Amie Bernstein, Regional President
Welcome Address
  Dr. Christopher Adams
  Vice President for Student Affairs
  Suffolk County Community College
Roll Call
Ice Breaker
Headquarters Update
  Onjalai Flake
  Phi Theta Kappa Associate Director of
  Regional and Chapter Development (Division I)

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Looking Back to Move Forward:
A Historical Look at Leadership Qualities in Individuals that Forged New Frontiers
Frank Vino, Counselor, Office of Campus Activities and Student Leadership Development
Suffolk County Community College

9:00pm - 9:45pm
Seminar Groups
(see page 7 for room locations)

9:00pm - 10:00pm
Faculty Dining Room, BSC
Advisory Board Meeting

10:00pm - 12:00am
Montauk Point Room, BSC
Fellowship Event– Game Night!
Hosted by the Regional Officers
Saturday, October 18, 2014

7:00am - 8:30am
Breakfast at Hotel

Second General Session
9:00am - 10:30am
Montauk Point Room, BSC
Session Sponsor: St. Thomas Aquinas College
Second Session Moderator
Rida Khan, Regional Executive Secretary
Roll Call

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
College Fish and the Student Leadership Challenge
Jennifer Blalock, Chief Student Support Officer
Phi Theta Kappa

10:30am - 11:15am
Seminar Groups
(see page 7 for room locations)

11:30am - 1:30pm
College Transfer Fair
Cafeteria, BSC
*Transfer Fair Scavenger Hunt*

12:30pm - 1:30pm
Lunch
Montauk Point Room, BSC

Third General Session
1:30pm - 2:15pm
Montauk Point Room, BSC
Session Sponsor: Mercy College
Third Session Moderators
Kyria Aho, Regional Southern District Vice President
Liz Brigham, Regional Northern District Vice President

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Neighborhood 3: Communication and Connection Within Counter-Culture
Becky Goldberg, Adjunct Instructor, Theatre Department
Suffolk County Community College

2:15pm - 3:00pm
Seminar Groups
(see page 7 for room locations)

3:00pm - 5:00pm
Fellowship Event – Amazing Race!
Start: Montauk Point Room, BSC
Hosted by the Alpha Zeta Nu Chapter
Suffolk County Community College Ammerman Campus

5:00pm - 6:00pm
Dinner
Montauk Point Room, BSC
Zeta Presentation
Amazing Race & Scavenger Hunt Results
Fourth General Session
6:15pm - 7:30pm
Smithtown Science Building, Rm. 109

Fourth Session Moderator
Niaz Mosharraf, Regional Alumni Representative

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Celestial Frontier - Journey to the Edge of the Universe
Dr. Michael Inglis, Professor, Department of Earth and Space Science
Suffolk County Community College

8:00pm Fellowship Event Options

Option 1: Theatre Production of NEIGHBORHOOD 3: Requisition of Doom
Written by Jennifer Haley
Directed by Becky Goldberg
Performed by the Suffolk County Community College Theater Department
Islip Arts Building - Theatre 119

Option 2: Tour of the Ammerman Campus Planetarium and Observatory
Observatory tour led by Matthew Pappas, Associate Professor, Department of Earth and Space Science, SCCC
Planetarium tour led by Brittney Herold, SCCC student
Smithtown Science Building
Sunday, October 19, 2014

7:00am - 8:30am                   Breakfast at Hotel

Fifth General Session
9:00am - 11:00am
Montauk Point Room, BSC

Fifth Session Moderator
   Ted Carey, Regional Western District Vice President

Headquarters Address
   Onjalai Flake, Associate Director of
   Regional and Chapter Development (Division I)

Keynote Address
   Conference Closing

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
   The ReesSpecht Life Frontier
   Richard Specht, CEO of ReesSpecht Life
   Honors Biology Teacher, Great Hollow Middle School, Nesconset, NY

11:15am - 12:00pm (see below for room locations)

Seminar Groups

12:00pm
Montauk Point Room, BSC

Boxed Lunch Pickup

Seminar Group Meeting Rooms

   Babylon Student Center
   Group 1 - Montauk Point Room
   Group 2 - Cafeteria Alcove
   Group 3 - Mildred Green Room
   Group 4 - Eaton’s Neck Room
   Group 5 - Orient Point Room
**Dr. Christopher J. Adams** serves as the Vice President for Student Affairs at Suffolk County Community College. As the College’s Chief Student Affairs Officer, Dr. Adams is responsible for providing the leadership and vision for the planning, policy development, implementation and assessment of all the College’s student affairs programs and services consistent with the College’s mission and goals. Most recently, Dr. Adams served as the Executive Assistant to the President and as the Chief of Staff for the Office of the President at Suffolk County Community College. In that role, Dr. Adams oversaw and managed priority initiatives and special projects for the College and the Office of the President. He also served as the liaison between the President and the College’s major constituencies.

Having worked in higher education for over 20 years, Dr. Adams served as the Executive Administrator of the Reading and Writing Project for Teachers College, Columbia University in New York, before his appointment to Suffolk County Community College. Prior to that position, he served as Director of the Office of Event Management at Hofstra University. Dr. Adams also held the positions of Assistant Director and Associate Director for the Office of Student Activities at Hofstra. In addition, Dr. Adams has served as an adjunct Assistant Professor in the School of Public Affairs-Higher Education Administration Program for CUNY’s Baruch College for several years and taught the following courses: Student Services in Higher Education, Student Development Theory, History of Higher Education, and Collective Bargaining in Higher Education.

Dr. Adams earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Liberal Studies from Southern Connecticut State University. He earned his Master of Science in Counselor Education and his Doctor of Education in Educational Administration from Hofstra University.

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**Onjalai Flake** is the Phi Theta Kappa Associate Director of Regional and Chapter Services (Division I). Onjalai Flake joined international headquarters staff in February 2014. She earned an Associate of Arts Transfer Degree as well as an Associate Degree in Hospitality and Tourism Management from Mt. Hood Community College in Gresham, Oregon, where she accepted membership into Phi Theta Kappa. Onjalai completed her bachelor’s degree in Broadcast Journalism and Communication Arts at George Fox University in Mewburg, Oregon.

As a Phi Theta Kappa member, Onjalai held several leadership roles on local, regional and international levels. She was 2008—2009 Vice President of Service, 2009—2010 Chapter President, and 2010—2011 Vice President of Scholarship for the Rho Theta Chapter at Mt. Hood Community College. She served as the 2010—2011 International Vice President for Division IV, and she most recently served as the 2011—2013 President for the Rocky Mountain Cascade Regional Alumni Association. Onjalai was also a 2011 Guistwhite Scholar.

As the Associate Director of Regional and Chapter Development for Division I, Onjalai supports the members and advisors of the chapters and regions of Division I in their efforts to increase membership acceptance and program participation. She also works with chapters to increase Phi Theta Kappa awareness on campuses, with college administrators and within the community.
FRANK VINO has worked in higher education for over 13 years. In his current role at Suffolk County Community College, Frank is responsible for overseeing all the leadership development initiatives at the Ammerman Campus, which include facilitating a weekly leadership program that runs both the fall and spring semesters, overseeing the selection and contracting of a leadership speaker series, as well as co-planning a variety of leadership workshops and retreats throughout the academic school year. In addition to his leadership responsibilities, Frank is responsible for overseeing new student orientation programs, advises Campus Activities Board and oversees a portion of the Ammerman Campus Club program.

JENNIFER BLALOCK is the Chief Student Support Services Officer at Phi Theta Kappa where she supervises CollegeFish, Community College Relations, Senior College Relations, and Scholarships. She has over a decade of leadership and service in community colleges, including serving as an Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management at one of Florida’s largest state colleges. She speaks regularly at national conferences and won “Best of Alabama” for her presentation at the 2012 Alabama State NACADA conference. She’s also been honored as Phi Theta Kappa Faculty of the Year at Florida Keys Community College and received the Vice President’s Award for Leadership at Eastern Florida State College. She is currently a doctoral candidate in Higher Education Leadership at Nova Southeastern University, where she’s focused her doctoral research on community college completion.

BECKY GOLDBERG holds an MFA in Dramaturgy from Stony Brook University. She is a teacher, dramaturg, playwright, actor, and director. Becky is on the faculty at both Stony Brook University and Suffolk County Community College. Her musical, 210 Amulet Avenue, a collaboration with composer Karl Hinze was featured at the 2014 New York Musical Theatre Festival, and starred Jason Gotay and Robin Skye. She is currently directing the Suffolk County Community College production of Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom.
**Dr. Michael Inglis**, originally from the United Kingdom, is a professional astronomer now teaching at Suffolk County Community College. He is a Fellow of the Astronomical Society, a Member of the Astronomical Union, and a member of the Royal Institution. After gaining his Doctorate in Astrophysics from the University of Hertfordshire he worked as a Post-Doctoral research astronomer at Warwick University, and then returned to Hertfordshire University, before moving to the U.S. and worked at Princeton University. He has used some of the world’s largest telescopes in Australia, La Palma, and Hawaii. His research interests include active galaxies, nebulae, cosmology, and cosmic rays. Dr. Inglis has recently begun a worldwide survey on the faintest objects visible to the naked eye, with the support of amateur astronomers from around the world. Dr. Inglis is actively involved in several outreach programs including the NASA Origins program and was a NASA Solar Systems Ambassador. The author of several books in astronomy and astrophysics aimed at both the amateur astronomer and the undergraduate student, he presents his work at national and international conferences and most recently was a keynote speaker at a conference in Toronto. His latest book, *Astrophysics Is Easy*, will be published at the end of 2014.

**Matthew Pappas** is an Associate Professor of Astronomy at Suffolk County Community College where he has been a faculty member since 2000. His career has focused on the advancement of astronomy to the public through education and outreach and has done research projects for Brookhaven National Lab and NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center. Beyond astronomy education, Matthew is interested in exoplanet research and astrobiology.

**Rich Specht** is a father of three who holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Biology from the University of Mary Washington and a Masters Degree in Liberal Studies from Stony Brook University. Currently, Rich teaches science at Great Hollow Middle School, in Nesconset, NY. Though ever an active writer, *A Little Rees Specht Cultivates Kindness* marks Rich’s first foray into writing children’s books. Rich and his wife, Samantha, are the co-founders of the ReesSpecht Life Foundation which they formed in the wake of the loss of their only son, Richard Edwin-Ehmer (Rees) Specht at 22 months old. The acts of kindness that the family received after Rees’ passing inspired them to “pay forward” that kindness. The foundation does this in the form of scholarships for high school seniors who demonstrate a commitment to their community, compassion and respect, as well as the distribution of over 67,000 ReesSpecht Life “pay it forward” cards. *A Little Rees Specht Cultivates Kindness* represents the culmination of Rich’s goal to help make this world a little better, one Rees’ piece at a time. Rich currently resides in Sound Beach, New York with his wife, Samantha, daughters, Abigail and Lorilei and his angel above, Rees.
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Participating Colleges

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3. Bentley College
4. Berkeley College
5. Cedar Crest College
6. Coastal Carolina University
7. College of New Rochelle
8. The College of Westchester
9. Concordia College
10. CUNY Lehman
11. Dowling College
12. Dominican College
13. Elms College
14. Fordham University — Fordham School of Professional and Continuing Studies
15. George Mason University
16. Iona College
17. La Salle University
18. LIU Post
19. Manhattan College
20. Manhattanville College
21. Marymount Manhattan College
22. Mercy College
23. Molloy College
24. Monmouth University
25. New School
26. New York University — SCPS
27. NYIT
28. Pace University
29. Paul Smiths College
30. St. Francis College
31. St. John’s University
32. St. Thomas Aquinas College
33. Simmons College
34. SUNY Binghamton
35. SUNY Oneonta
36. University of North Carolina—Wilmington
37. University of Pennsylvania
38. University of Tampa
39. Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology
40. Wentworth Institute of Technology
41. Wesleyan College

Upcoming Events

29th Annual New York Regional Convention
Mohawk Valley Community College • Lambda Beta Chapter
Utica, New York
March 6–8, 2015

Phi Theta Kappa NERDNATION
International Convention
San Antonio, Texas
April 16–19, 2015
The Symbols

The emblem of Phi Theta Kappa consists of a golden slab keyed at top and bottom. Across the center of the slab is a black enamel band upon which three Greek letters appear, which are the initials of three mystic Greek words meaning wisdom (Phi), aspiration (Theta), and purity (Kappa). Behind the band is a wreath, on the one side composed of oak leaves, and on the other, of laurel. The wreath of oak leaves denotes stability and strength of character, and the curling leaves of laurel signify achievement and success. Above the band is a representative of the head of Athena, Goddess of Learning. In the base appears the mystic Greek letters meaning light, the light of learning and knowledge. The fraternity colors are blue, for scholarship, and gold for purity.

Alcohol, Controlled Substance and Inappropriate Behavior Policies

Person may not bring alcohol or controlled substances into any Phi Theta Kappa Convention or event. Attendees are expected to behave courteously and professionally. Person exhibiting inappropriate behavior will be asked to leave the event.