2016 New York Regional Convention

Celebrating 30 Years

Hosted by Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY & LaGuardia Community College, CUNY

Location: Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY
Richard Harris Terrace
199 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007

March 4-6, 2016
Welcome to New York City!

We are honored to be hosting this year's Annual Regional Convention, celebrating 30 years of academic excellence, student development, and service leadership in the New York Region. We look forward to a weekend of honoring chapter and regional successes, electing new regional leadership, and gathering in fellowship. We hope you find it to be a wonderful and enjoyable experience!

New York Region

Regional Leadership
Regional Coordinator: Alexander d’Erizans, Borough of Manhattan Community College
Associate Regional Coordinator: Bridget Young, Suffolk County Community College
President: Ainsley Brundage, Mohawk Valley Community College
Northern Vice President: Michael Campbell, Onondaga Community College
Southern Vice President: Naim Youssif Traore, Westchester Community College
Western Vice President: Richard Thomas, Monroe Community College
Executive Secretary: Amanda Smith, Monroe Community College
Alumni Representative: Andrew Edwards, Mohawk Valley Community College Alumni

Regional Advisory Board
Payal Doctor, LaGuardia Community College
Lizabeth Doherty, Mohawk Valley Community College
Robin Graff, Westchester Community College
Jodi Oriel, Monroe Community College
Annie Tuttle, Onondaga Community College
Host Chapters
Alpha Kappa Chapter - Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY
Alpha Theta Phi Chapter - LaGuardia Community College, CUNY

Chapter Attendance
Alpha Alpha Upsilon, Fulton-Montgomery Community College
Alpha Delta Gamma, Suffolk County Community College - Grant Campus
Alpha Epsilon Chi, Finger Lakes Community College
Alpha Eta Psi, Suffolk County Community College - Eastern Campus
Alpha Gamma Nu, Tompkins Cortland Community College
Alpha Iota Omicron, Westchester Community College
Alpha Iota Upsilon, Genesee Community College
Alpha Kappa, Borough of Manhattan Community College
Alpha Nu Chi, SUNY Orange
Alpha Psi Kappa, Dutchess Community College
Alpha Sigma Zeta, Onondaga Community College
Alpha Theta Iota, SUNY Monroe Community College
Alpha Theta Phi, LaGuardia Community College
Alpha Zeta Nu, Suffolk County Community College Ammerman
Beta Theta Sigma, Fashion Institute of Technology
Lambda Beta, Mohawk Valley Community College
Lamba Nu, Bronx Community College
Lambda Sigma, Queensborough Community College
Xi Kappa, Kingsborough Community College
Zeta, Alumni Chapter
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SPECIAL GUESTS

Karrin E. Wilks, Ed. D., is the Senior Vice President and Provost at the Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC), the largest institution in the City University of New York (CUNY), serving over 25,000 students. She has served in public higher education administration for over twenty-five years and has extensive experience developing and evaluating policy and programs aimed at improving student learning outcomes, particularly for underserved populations. Areas of special interest include college readiness and K16 partnerships, developmental education, assessment, evidence-based practice and planning, and improving pedagogy across disciplines, particularly through writing to learn. Prior to joining BMCC, Dr. Wilks served as the Senior Vice President and Interim Provost for Medgar Evers College, the only predominantly black institution in CUNY. Before serving as Interim Provost, Dr. Wilks held the position of University Dean for Undergraduate Studies in the CUNY Central Office of Academic Affairs. Prior to joining CUNY, Dr. Wilks was the Senior Vice President for the Vermont State Colleges. She taught writing and humanities courses at the Community College of Vermont and served on the faculty of the Vermont Leadership Institute for many years. Dr. Wilks has an Ed.D. in policy and leadership development and an M.Ed. in curriculum and instruction from the University of Vermont, and a B.A. in history/creative writing from Middlebury College. She lives in New York City and has three grown children and a granddaughter.

Vincent (Tzu-Wen) Cheng (tcheng@bmcc.cuny.edu) is an Assistant Professor in the Speech, Communication, and Theatre Arts Department at Borough of Manhattan Community College. Born and raised in Taiwan before coming to the U.S. in 1996, he received three graduate degrees from New York University including an M.C.J. degree from the School of Law, an M.A. degree in Speech & Interpersonal Communication, and a Ph.D. degree in International Education (both from the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development). Since joining BMCC in 2005, Dr. Cheng has participated in the Salzburg Global Seminar and has presented papers pertaining to international education and intercultural communication at various college-wide, university-wide, regional, national, and international conferences. He is currently an active member of BMCC’s Asian Heritage Month Committee and CUNY’s AAARI (Asian American/Asian Research Institute), a curator and presenter of BMCC’s annual Asian Heritage Month Film Festival, the co-chair of CLASP’s (CUNY League of Active Speech Professors) Speech across Cultures and Ages Committee, as well as the co-director of an NEH (National Endowment for the Humanities) funded “Cultivating Global Competencies in a Diverse World” professional development program at BMCC. Dr. Cheng has taught courses including Introduction to Human Communication and Culture, Intercultural Communication, Conflict Management, and Fundamentals of Speech and has published on topics such as Chinese conflict management strategies, international cultural exchange, as well as food and culture; he is also an established translator and interpreter in the international contemporary-art scene and film circle.
Amie Bernstein was born in Jonesboro, Arkansas, but was raised in Holbrook, New York. She is currently attending Suffolk County Community College’s Ammerman Campus and is a member of the Alpha Zeta Nu chapter. She has served in various leadership roles in the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, including Vice President of Fellowship and Chapter President, and is currently holding the position of International President for Division I.

While serving as the 2014-2015 New York Regional Phi Theta Kappa President, Amie received the Distinguished Regional Officer Award and the Distinguished Chapter Officer Award on the regional level. She completed an Associate of Arts Degree in Liberal Arts General Studies in May of 2014 and is continuing to earn her second associate degree in Psychology.

Amie received a Distinguished Student Award from the Faculty Senate at Suffolk County College and is a 2014 recipient of a State University of New York Chancellor’s Award for Student Excellence. Amie will complete her second associate degree and transfer to a four-year university to continue her Bachelors of Arts in Psychology with a minor in Leadership Development Studies.

In her free time, she spends time with her family and friends, and she is the proud owner of a miniature chocolate schnauzer named Marty.

Candaceia Charles is thrilled to sing for the 2016 Phi Theta Kappa Regional convention. Some of her favorite credits have been Celie in The Color Purple, Aida, and Eponine in Les Misérables. She is grateful to God for all opportunities and blessings that have brought her this far.
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, March 4

3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.  Registration, BMCC Main building lobby
                      Sponsored by Mercy College

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  Dinner, Richard Harris Terrace

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  **First General Session, Richard Harris Terrace**
                      Welcome
                      National Anthem
                      Performed by Candaceia Charles, LaGuardia Community
                      College student
                      Roll Call
                      Welcome Speaker
                      Karrin E. Wilks, Senior Vice President and Provost at the
                      Borough of Manhattan Community College
                      Introduction of Regional Officers
                      First Nomination for Regional Officers
                      Regional Officer Reflections/Outgoing Speeches
                      Guest Speaker
                      Vincent (Tzu-Wen) Cheng, Assistant Professor in the Speech,
                      Communication, and Theatre Arts Department at Borough of
                      Manhattan Community College

9:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.  Fellowship Event
                      Sponsored by Regional Officers and Host Chapter, Alpha Kappa

Saturday, March 5

8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.  Breakfast, Richard Harris Terrace

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.  Registration, BMCC Main building lobby
                      Sponsored by Mercy College
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| 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. | **Second General Session, Richard Harris Terrace**<br>Welcome<br>Roll Call<br>Regional Officer Reflections/Outgoing Speech<br>Second Nomination for Regional Officers<br>Guest Speaker<br>  
*Amie Bernstein, International Vice President Division I*<br>(International) Regional Awards<br>Regional Officer Reflections/Outgoing Speech |
| 11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. | Workshop Sessions<br>  
1. Honors in Action (HIA), Hudson Room<br>2. What kind of Leader are You?, Room S341<br>3. Phi Theta Kappa: The Basics, Room N467 |
| 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. | Photo Booth |
| 12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Chapter Project Poster Exhibit, Richard Harris Terrace |
| 12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. | Alumni/30th Anniversary Lunch, Richard Harris Terrace |
| 1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. | Regional Officer Campaigning, Richard Harris Terrace |
| 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. | **Third General Session, Richard Harris Terrace**<br>*Sponsored by LIM College*<br>Welcome<br>Regional Officer Reflections/Outgoing Speeches<br>Officer candidate speeches<br>State of the Region/Budget – Regional Coordinator<br>Business Meeting<br>Regional Awards<br>Advisor Recognition |
| 3:30 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. | Coffee Break/ Meet the Candidates |
| 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. | **Fourth General Session, Richard Harris Terrace**<br>Regional Officer Reflections/Outgoing Speech<br>Zeta Induction<br>Individual/Team Regional Hallmark Awards |
Zeta Induction  
Individual/Team Regional Hallmark Awards  

5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Regional Officer Voting, Hudson Room  

**Sunday, March 6**  

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Advisor Meeting  

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Breakfast, Richard Harris Terrace  

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. **Fifth General Session, Richard Harris Terrace**  
Welcome  
Regional Officer Reflections/Outgoing Speeches  
Regional Awards  
Induction of New Officers  

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Incoming Regional Officer Meeting, Hudson Room
WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

Honors in Action (HIA)
Presenters:
Amanda Smith, NY Phi Theta Kappa Executive Secretary
Michael Campbell, NY Phi Theta Kappa Northern Vice President
Description:
Join Amanda and Michael as they go over the 8 steps to a successful Honors In Action project. They will be discussing the dos and don't's, as well as prior examples, of HIA projects. Also, get a first look at the new HIA topic!

What kind of Leader are you?
Presenters:
Richard Thomas, NY Phi Theta Kappa Western Vice President
Andrew Edwards, NY Phi Theta Kappa Alumni Representative
Description:
In this workshop, Richard and Andrew will educate participants about diverse leadership approaches, styles, and personality types applicable to you.

Phi Theta Kappa: The Basics
Presenters:
Ainsley Brundage, NY Phi Theta Kappa President
Naim Traore Youssif, NY Phi Theta Kappa Southern Vice President
Description:
Ainsley and Naim will spearhead a concise and informative discussion of Phi Theta Kappa fundamentals.
Ainsley Brundage was born in the year of 1995 on the 9th day of April in Brooklyn, NY. He is a Psychology/English major at Mohawk Valley Community College, where he is also a Psychology/Sociology tutor, member of CSTEP, Honors Program, Student Congress, Residence Council, and a Resident Assistant. Ainsley’s favorite foods are different types of chicken and French toast. His favorite shows are Hannibal, Sherlock, Criminal Minds, N.C.I.S, White Collar, Prison Break, Daredevil, Damages, Fringe, Brain Games, and Cosmos: A Space Odyssey. Ainsley is interested in traveling to France, Egypt, Monaco, England, China, and Japan. Playing tennis, basketball, baseball, lacrosse, football, running, and watching Netflix, are a few of his hobbies. He is also an avid reader and writer. After transferring to Cornell University, Ainsley plans on attending Stanford University Law school where he will begin to pursue a career in Intellectual Property Law as an attorney.

Amanda Smith, Executive Secretary for the New York Region, is an Event Planning Major at Monroe Community College. She is also the Vice President of College Project in her local chapter, Alpha Theta Iota, and held the position of Chair of Membership in the Spring of 2015. She plans to get her Bachelor’s Degree and become either a Corporate Conference and Event Planner or a Director of Fundraising Events in the Rochester area.

Richard Thomas is originally from San Diego, CA and currently lives in Rochester, NY with his wife and two-year old son, where he attends Monroe Community College (MCC). In addition to his role as a Regional Officer, Richard is also the 2015-2016 Vice President for Honors in Action of Alpha Theta Iota at MCC. In May 2014, Richard completed a Certificate of Completion for Emergency Medical Services as well as certifying as an Emergency Medical Technician for New York State, and is anticipating completing an Associate in Science degree for Liberal Arts and Sciences General Studies – Health Related in May 2016 prior to applying for MCC's Nursing program in order to earn an Associate in Science for Nursing with licensure as a Registered Nurse. Richard currently works as a Career Peer Advisor for MCC’s Career and Transfer Center while maintaining a 3.98 GPA. After completion of his Nursing degree at MCC, Richard plans on transferring to St. John Fisher College to pursue a doctoral degree as a Doctor of Nursing Practice in order to become a Nurse Practitioner.

Naim Youssif Traore, the Italian-born Ghanaian, is a first generation college student. He currently serves as the Southern District VP for the NY Region, and College Project VP at Westchester Community College, Alpha Iota Omicron Chapter. He has also been appointed to serve on the hearing committee of the Student Government Association at his campus. After recently migrating to the US, his technological curiosities have led him to major in Computer Science, working towards a career in software engineering. ‘Ones and zeroes’ are not his only creative influences; he also has a keen interest in the art of menswear. He employs his unique sense of fashion in the way that he presents himself. Naim is currently employed at H&M, where he enjoys assisting customers to look their best. His long-term goal however, is to work at Apple. While ‘zeroes and ones’ never seize to amaze him, his style has been, and still is an indispensable source of confidence he deems necessary for the hustle and bustle of his new terrain.

Michael Campbell is a part of the Alpha Sigma Zeta chapter, at Onondaga Community College (OCC). He is the previous Vice President for Scholarship at OCC. He’s an Internationally Certified Firefighter and Hazardous Materials Operator. Michael will be graduating this May, and plans to transfer to either Yale, Georgetown, or the University of Tennessee, where he will be pursuing a degree in either Management or Ethics, depending on where he is accepted. Later, he hopes to become a lawyer.

Andrew Matthew Edwards was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, the birthplace of basketball and Dr. Seuss. He was the Vice President of Fellowship for the Lambda Beta Chapter at Mohawk Valley Community College, but he continued his involvement with Phi Theta Kappa as the Alumni Representative. He is currently enrolled in the Sociology program at SUNY Oneonta, where he is involved with the Fencing Club, the Creative Writing Club, and serves as the president of his hall government. His favorite color is maroon, he occasionally likes to tell jokes, and he had some of his happiest moments with his regional officer team.
HISTORY

“The purpose of Phi Theta Kappa shall be to recognize and encourage scholarship among two-year college students. To achieve this purpose, Phi Theta Kappa shall provide opportunity for the development of leadership and service, for an intellectual climate for exchange of ideas and ideals, for lively fellowship for scholars, and for stimulation of interest in continuing academic excellence.”

Phi Theta Kappa’s mission is two-fold:
1. Recognize and encourage the academic achievement of two-year college students and;
2. Provide opportunities for individual growth and development through participation in honors, leadership, service and fellowship programming.

Phi Theta Kappa traces its beginnings to a Society that originated with six charter members under the name of Kappa Phi Omicron at Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri, in 1910. The Society continued to grow and in the spring of 1918 was one of many honorary groups in Missouri. At a meeting of the presidents of the Missouri junior colleges for women in 1918, it was decided to organize a new honorary society, chapters of which would have a common character, stand and similarity of organization. The name Phi Theta Kappa was chosen, and the Society was incorporated in Missouri as a national organization. Founders modeled many aspects of the new Society after the prestigious senior college honorary society, Phi Beta Kappa.

The eight charter colleges of Phi Theta Kappa were Hardin, Stephens, Christian, Lindenwood, Cottey, Howard Payne, William Woods and Central. The Alpha Chapter was established at Hardin College but was later moved to Stephens College when Hardin College became a baccalaureate granting Institution. Today, Cottey College in Nevada, Missouri, is the only charter college with an active Phi Theta Kappa chapter.

For the first six years, Phi Theta Kappa confined its activity to women’s junior colleges, but in 1924 through constitutional amendment, the field of activity was enlarged to cover all junior colleges. In 1926, Phi Theta Kappa expanded beyond the borders of Missouri and into coeducational institutions. The American Association of Junior Colleges (now known as the American Association of Community Colleges or AACC) recognized Phi Theta Kappa as the official honor society for two-year colleges in 1929.

In 1930, Margaret J. James (Mosal) became the first elected national president of Phi Theta Kappa while attending Whitworth College in Brookhaven, Mississippi. She became national secretary in 1935 and moved the records of the organization to her hometown of Canton. Mosal served as Phi Theta Kappa’s chief executive for 50 years, retiring as Executive Director in 1985.

In the early years, Phi Theta Kappa membership was conferred to students at time of graduation and few programs and services were offered. The explosive growth of community colleges in the 1960s led Phi Theta Kappa to expand its mission to reflect the nurturing philosophy of the institutions it served. Students were inducted as freshmen and study programs were offered.

Today, Phi Theta Kappa is the largest honor society in higher education with nearly 3 million members and 1,285 chapters located in all 50 of the United States, U.S. territories, British Virgin Islands, Canada, Germany, and the Republic of Palau. The recognition and scholarship opportunities that Phi Theta Kappa brings to an institution, its advisors, and most importantly its student members are unparalleled by any other student organization.