

PHI THETA KAPPA

# New England Region Newsletter



## UPCOMING DATES :

Regional Convention

March 20-22

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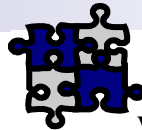
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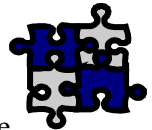
[www.neptk.org](http://www.neptk.org)

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## WELCOME BACK and HAPPY NEW YEAR



Welcome back! We hope everyone had a wonderful winter break. We have an exciting semester ahead of us! First, we would like to announce that Phi Theta Kappa as a whole has reached 96% of our goal toward the Hite's Scholarship Challenge. For those of you who may not be familiar with this...at the international convention last year, it was announced that the Hite's Scholarship foundation had a challenge for our organization. The challenge was for Phi Theta Kappa to raise \$350,000 by the next International Convention at which time, they will provide the remaining funds to give us a \$1 million endowment. Not only that, but at our very own New England Regional Leadership Conference it was announced by International Rep, Monika Byrd that this foundation has been so impressed with our organization that there is talk of more opportunities to come from the Hite's Foundation. So as you can see, this is an important project which is why we have made this our Regional Project this year. At our Leadership Conference we were able to raise \$301 but we are not done yet. We have a few new exciting things to help. So please be on the look out for the new opportunities we have coming out to help us with raising money for this scholarship endowment. Check out the rest of this newsletter, our website at [www.neptk.org](http://www.neptk.org) and watch for our emails announcing these new fundraisers. Go New England Region!!

## New England Regional Convention 2009

We hope you will join us for the New England Regional Convention at the Rocky Hill Marriott in Rocky Hill, CT on March 20 - 22nd. The Regional Convention is always a great time of fellowship with other chapter members; a celebration of what has been accomplished over the year during our Awards Ceremony; our regional transfer fair; Regional Officer Elections; as well as, fantastic keynote speakers and workshops. We have done our best to make this convention affordable for chapters with **discounted hotel rooms of \$99 a night** and a registration fee of \$80 a person which will include 5 meals, amazing keynote speakers, welcome bags and the opportunity to meet representatives from over 35 four year institutions. **You may register online at <http://convention.neptk.org/registration>.** We are looking forward to seeing you there!



Check out our Leadership Conference highlight video made by your own Central VP, Kim Rodrigues  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7sg1GZa6FAE>

## Teddy Bear Project

**Community Neuro-Rehabilitation, Inc. (CNRI) and the Mary Meyer Corporation invites the New England Region of Phi Theta Kappa to raise funds towards starting a traumatic brain injury (TBI) treatment program in New England. This fundraising program will help both soldiers with TBI and children of any active duty soldier or National Guard personnel.**

**For more information on this, please watch for emails from your regional officers and check out our website @ [www.neptk.org](http://www.neptk.org). These bears will also be available at the Regional Convention.**



**Center: ZamZam Mohamad**

## Alpha Phi Xi Chapter Members Receive Awards

Two members, Jill Bouchard and ZamZam Mohamad, of the Alpha Phi Xi chapter at Central Maine Community College were awarded with the College for ME-Androscoggin award. ZamZam came to the area as a refugee from Somalia. She is raising five children alone while her husband remains in Africa. In the time that ZamZam has been in the United States, she has taken care of those five children, a sick parent, learned exceptional English, and became an American citizen and an honor student. An

instructor that introduced ZamZam says that she has never heard ZamZam complain about the hard work, pressure or about the loneliness from separation. ZamZam is working toward a degree in nursing at Central Maine Community College.

Jill Bouchard was raised by her grandparents. She never thought college was possible due to the lack of money. It was never even talked about it at home. Shortly after high school, Jill found herself pregnant. A few weeks before the child was born, the doctors discovered there were some medical issues that the child maybe suffering from. Jill decided that no matter what the outcome, she would raise this child to the best of her abilities. And she has. Her son just recently turned 11-years-old! Jill is a Regional Officer-at-Large for the New England Region and her chapter President. When the presenting Administrator was asked why she chose Jill, she simply said "I cannot think of anyone that has overcome so much in so little as Jill has. When you see her walking the halls, Jill is always the first to say hello and will always have a smile on her face."

Congratulations to these two members for the achievements and accomplishments. We wish them luck in whatever the future may hold for these two moms.



**Right: Jill Bouchard**

- Jill Bouchard, Officer-at-Large

## Alpha Upsilon Alpha partnering with "Blue Angels"



On Saturday, December 13, 2008, Alpha Upsilon Alpha Chapter at Manchester Community College in Manchester, CT partnered with the Manchester Police Dept. aka "Blue Angels" in putting on a special Christmas Party for underprivileged families in the Manchester, CT area. The chapter added a personal touch appreciated by all 500 parents and children in attendance by providing 48 dozen cookies, icing



and sprinkles for decorating; temporary tattoos and face gems; face-painting; paper, glitter, sequins and other craft supplies for making Christmas cards. There was a magician and a "Santa" d.j. providing other entertainment while families awaited their turn to greet Santa, take photos and pick up their gifts.



Alpha Upsilon Alpha Chapter has been providing this hands-on, personal touch to the Blue Angels Christmas Party for the past 6 years in conjunction with the Manchester Police Dept. and has already committed to be there again this year.

As the saying goes, "a photo speaks a thousand words", you can see the joy and the merriment in the photos that everyone in attendance shared throughout the day.

-Julie Larkin, Southern VP

## Honoring Those In Active Military Service

It was an honor to officially open our Leadership Conference Saturday, October 18th with a Salute to The Troops. This "salute" reminded us to honor our troops by make everyday count, and to do great things with the opportunities that we have been afforded. This video salute can be viewed at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pGb4-8cVgyQ>

Nearly 70% of attendees raised their hands when asked if they had someone that they cared about currently in service. Therefore, we thought it only fitting to have a presentation at our Regional Conference in March to honor all family and friends of New England Phi Theta Kappans serving in active duty or with veteran status.

So, we are asking you to email a photo of a family member or friend who is serving or has served in any of our U.S. Military Armed Forces across the nation or around the world to kimrodri-guesptk@yahoo.com. Please include their name, rank and branch of service, and where they are serving or if they have veteran status. If no photo is available, please send their name and the above information.

You may also send a short sentiment that you may wish to be included in the presentation. The presentation style will be dependant upon the number of submissions that we receive. We look forward to honoring family and friends of New England Phi Theta Kappa family who are serving in active duty or with veteran status.



- Kim M. Rodrigues, Central Vice President  
Proud Mother of a Soldier

## Mourning the Loss of a Fellow Kappan

Northern Maine Community College Alpha Phi Epsilon chapter is mourning the loss of a member. Katie Pictou, NMCC's Phi Theta Kappa treasurer passed away on Sunday January 11, 2009. Katie was one of the recipient's from NMCC of the All-USA Academic Team for the state of Maine. Not only was Katie active and an officer in our Phi Theta Kappa chapter, she was an officer in the College's student senate, and a student representative to the NMCC Foundation (an independent entity whose goal is to secure funds to further enhance the efforts of the College). Katie was very active in her college community as well as the community at large. She will be missed greatly by all who knew her.

- Lori J. Googins, Advisor

**!!FUNDRAISER!!  
OPPORTUNITY FOR THE HITES SCHOLARSHIP  
CHALLENGE AND YOUR CHAPTER!**



The New England Region of Phi Theta Kappa has teamed up with The ChicoBag Company to sell reusable bags that are designed to be unforgettable.

ChicoBags fit in a pocket or purse when stuffed into the integrated pouch. The small carabineer allows the ChicoBag to attach to your belt loop, back-pack or key chain preparing you to refuse a single-use bag wherever you go. With nine vibrant colors, the durable ChicoBag is suitable for everyone.

The hope is to get each person in *our community* using reusable bags in efforts to help humanity kick the single-use bag habit.

This fundraiser fits perfectly with Phi Theta Kappa's Service Program, Operation Green. So help us save our environment with these amazing and convenient bags and purchase a bag of your own today. Please visit our website below or email your Regional VP to place your orders and ask about opportunities for chapter fundraising with the ChicoBag. These bags will also be available at our Regional Convention...see you there!

**Materials:** Made of durable woven polyester. Our fabric allows for easy opening and stuffing. No special folding is required.

**Dimensions:** Bag 18" x 14.5" Pouch 3"x4" (approximately)

**Weight:** 1.5 oz

**Capacity:** 25 lbs. (One gallon of milk is approximately 7 lbs.)

**Washing:** Machine wash cold and hang dry

**\$5**



Black

Brown

Green

Mango

Pale Green



Blue

Pink

Purple

Red

Earth

**New Regional Website Forum**

Please don't forget to post on our own New England Region Forum @ [www.neptk.org](http://www.neptk.org). This Forum provides us the opportunity to easily keep in touch with those that we meet from other chapters around the region. Please take advantage of this great tool. We look forward to hearing from you!

