On September 8, Phi Theta Kappa members from six Texas chapters - representing six different countries - came together for leadership training, hands-on 5-Star training for members and Advisors, fellowship, food, and fun, hosted by the Alpha Omicron chapter at Tyler Junior College. Even though most colleges in Texas are just nine days into a busy fall semester, Advisors and members from Upsilon Rho (Angelina), Iota Alpha (TVCC), Zeta Omicron (Navarro), Gamma Omicron (Kilgore), Zeta Sigma (Texarkana) and Alpha Omicron (TJC) contributed to lively discussion on leadership topics including meeting preparation, agenda planning, best activities to engage members, public speaking, and the value of small group sessions. Almost everyone was able to accomplish portions of the 5-Star Competitive Edge program for members or the brand new 5-Star Advisor Training with those who had already completed the training putting what they'd learned to good use helping others. The Texas Region is divided into five Districts. District Three stretches across the East Texas "Pine Curtain" from Texarkana to Tyler to Waco, encompassing seventeen chapters. Chapters are still anywhere from one to four hours apart within District III, and even further apart for District one, covering West Texas.
Omnicron Psi Hosts Candidate Forum

By Kassandra Garcia

Every year, communities join together to celebrate the United States Constitution on September 17. This year was no different for Grayson County as our college’s Phi Theta Kappa chapter, Omicron Psi, hosted a public event for the occasion.

The Texas House candidates for District 62 were invited to our campus to speak on an open panel for our community. This included Valerie Hefner, Democrat; Reggie Smith, Republican; and David Schaab, Libertarian.

Interesting questions were brought forward for our panel, like their stance on college students’ food insecurities, and paying student-athletes. More common questions involved gun control, the legalization of marijuana, and the reoccurring bathroom bill.

Questions that involved legality were also quickly answered by the Republican candidate, who happens to be a lawyer.

Mr. Smith actually invited audience members in the crowd to shadow him at the courthouse so that they could better understand his stance against marijuana. Lt. Colonel Schaab gave incredibly detailed explanations with gun control topics and stayed after the panel just to talk about the military with two Grayson College students.

Mrs. Hefner took a contemplative approach to many topics and shared information about her trans-sexual daughter’s struggles. She wanted to make it very clear that people are people, and we all should have the same rights.

All-in-all, the event was a success for our community and we could not thank the college enough for this opportunity. The same could be said for Professor Mary Linder who acted as the contact to reach out to our candidates.

Thank you as well to Omicron Psi President, Lavada Burse, for being the moderator of the panel, and Dr. Jeremy McMillen, our college President, for taking the time to attend the event and speak with the candidates personally.

Our Constitution is one of the most important documents we have ever created, which is why September 17 is so important. This panel for District 62 of the Texas House could not have been more fitting for such a day, and Grayson College is proud to bring opportunities such as this to the communities around it.
PTK Party On The Patio!

What better way to end the first day of classes (and raise PTK awareness) than by coming on out to Alpha Omicron's PTK Party on the Patio - an event aimed at introducing PTK to our freshmen - and everyone else!!!

PTK had a make-your-own nacho bar, sandwiches, chips and of course, ice-cold watermelon! Attendees learned about Phi Theta Kappa and our Provisional Membership program (designed to help those who don't quite have the grades get engaged with the chapter and see the value of excellence in the classroom.) After the meal, participants made new friends and learned a lot about the campus vying for prizes during our crazy TJC scavenger hunt. Two teams out of eight came in almost simultaneously, with the Apache Belles team coming in first place. Both top teams have members that now plan to run for PTK chapter officer positions at our upcoming elections!

#memberrecruitment #diversity #ptkawareness #familyfriendly

Stressed about Midterms or Finals?

At Texas Honors, we heard from Dr. Cia Verschelden about how stressors from everyday life can limit our bandwidth. Here is an article on how to manage stress and help keep your bandwidth available during your upcoming exams.


REGIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRAA Hallmark Writing Workshop
November 3, 9am-4pm
Eastfield College
RSVP Deadline October 15
By emailing: candaceeldridgeutd@yahoo.com

Texas Regional Convention 2019!
March 7-9
At the Hyatt Regency Houston Int. Airport