

PHI KAPPA PHI

newsletter



VOL. 1, NO. 1

PHI KAPPA PHI

Fall 2000

2000-01 Debate Series Launched

Dr. Thomas Feldbush, President of the East Carolina Chapter of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, has announced the continuation during this academic year of the chapter's debate series.

Are NC tests failing our students?

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Carolina Coastal Plain. The post-hurricane flooding of 1999 provided an especially powerful subtext to this debate.

At the conclusion of each of the presentations, audience members were brought into the

debate process and invited to vote on which debater had presented the most cogent arguments.

The 1999-2000 strong beginning of the Phi Kappa Phi

debate initiative will be furthered in this year's series which kicks off in November with a debate on Student Assessment in the Public Schools. Discussants are Irv Besecker, State Coordinator for NC Citizens for Democratic Schools, and Dr. Luis M. Fabrizio, Director of the Accountability Section of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

The East Carolina Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi is soliciting proposals for future debates. Please contact a PKP officer (listed on p. 4) with your ideas.

Last year's 1999-2000 debate series featured two events: first, a debate on bio-engineered foods, and second, a debate on development in the Coastal Plain of North Carolina.

Utilizing the classic debate format, Ron Sederoff of North Carolina State University faced off with Dennis Cooley of the ECU Philosophy Department over the ethical implications of bio-engineering.

In the second event, Joan Altman, Mayor of Oak Island and a real estate developer herself, met Doug Raider of the Environmental Defense Fund, to explore the potential results of development and over-development in the eastern North

SE Region Vice-President Visits

Dr. A. Wayne Lacy, Phi Kappa Phi Southeast Region Vice-President and retired professor from Auburn University, was the guest speaker at the Spring 2000 initiation of East Carolina University's student and faculty members. Two hundred thirty student initiates (the largest-ever group of ECU inductees) and ten faculty initiates joined the national academic honorary. In addition to Dr. Lacy's serving as featured speaker for the ceremony, he also met with chapter officers and board members and discussed activities and strategies to increase the visibility of Phi Kappa Phi on the campus and to encourage chapter growth. Suggested initiatives included establishing a cycle of two induction ceremonies a year, the creation of a chapter newsletter (the fledgling result of which you hold in your hand), and a showcase for undergraduate research.

The chapter anticipates moving to the two-initiation schedule in the 2001-2002 academic year and is exploring ways to highlight the results of superior undergraduate research. Look for updates on these and other activities in the spring newsletter.

• *Recognizing and Promoting Academic Excellence In All Disciplines* •



Snyder Announced as Chapter President-Elect

Dr. Scott W. Snyder is the current vice-president/president-elect of East Carolina University's chapter of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. Currently the Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Snyder holds degrees from the College of Wooster (Wooster, OH) and Tulane University (New Orleans, LA). A licensed geologist and an active researcher, Dr. Snyder has been a shipboard scientist on ten oceanographic cruises, has published more than fifty refereed journal articles/book chapters, and has received (from a wide array of agencies) grants totaling over a million dollars. He holds numerous professional memberships and has served as an officer for the Cushman Foundation for Foraminiferal Research and the North American Micropaleontology Section of SEPM.

His five editorships include three years as editor of the Journal of Foraminiferal Research.

Dr. Snyder's priorities for his tenure include a continuation of the policy of vigorous membership expansion for both students and faculty members. Faculty inductees have distinguished themselves both as scholars and as fully-engaged and active service members of their academic communities.

Resolving the logistical challenges of a two-initiation calendar and continuing the newly established and highly successful tradition of Phi Kappa Phi-sponsored debates, will be areas of focus during Dr. Snyder's two-year term.



Phi Facts: Phi Kappa Phi is a member of the nationally recognized Association of College Honor Societies.

2001-2002 Fellowship and Award Opportunities

The Phi Kappa Phi Graduate Fellowship Program currently awards up to \$380,000 annually in the form of fifty fellowships and thirty Awards of Excellence for post-graduate study. Fellowships are \$7000 each and the Awards of Excellence are \$1000 each.

Each chapter is invited to submit one nominee for the national competition. East Carolina's chapter award winner will receive a plaque and \$750 to be used toward the expenses of graduate study and that person will then enter into the national competition for the eighty available fellowships and awards. In order to be eligible, applicants must be active members of Phi Kappa Phi on April 7, 2001 although, may or may not yet be initiated. Applicants must also be enrolled as full-time students in a post-baccalaureates program for the 2001-2002 academic year, preferably at an accredited American institution of higher learning. Individuals registered in a professional school such as law, medicine, or engineering as well as individuals pursuing academic programs in fine, applied, and performing arts are eligible to apply.

Application materials may be obtained from Dr. Holly Matthews, Chair of the Graduate Fellowship Committee, Brewster A-213, 328-4839. The application may also be obtained by downloading it from www.phikappaphi.org/fellowsh2.ht.

Applications are due no later than February 1, 2001 to the ECU Chapter Office, Ragsdale 113. There they will be reviewed by the ECU Chapter and one winner will be selected and nominated for national competition on or before March 1, 2001.



PKP and ECU Honors Program Join to Recognize Undergraduate Excellence

Phi Kappa Phi's National Fellowship/Student Awards Chair, Dr. Holly Mathews, has reported that the ECU chapter of Phi Kappa Phi is entering a new phase of cooperation with ECU's Honors program which services the university's best and brightest students. Plans are underway for expanded connections between the local PKP chapter and the highly successful students who are enrolled in this prestigious program.

Honors students who engage in significant scholarly activity via the Undergraduate Research Assistantships (funded through the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs) receive a stipend of \$300.00 for their thirty hours committed to aiding faculty in research projects. The thirty-hour commitment is generally spread out over a two-semester period.

Unusual in its aim especially at *freshman and sophomore* students, the awards provide a jump-start to student research skills and an entree into the world of high-level academic achievement.

Rather than utilizing the students in clerical or other minor roles, the program gives undergraduates the opportunity for substantive involvement in major faculty research projects. In fact, Dr. Michael Bassman (Honors Program Director) reports that undergraduates previously involved in the program have presented papers at national conferences and have been listed as co-authors of published refereed articles.

In addition to targeting these students as prospective nominees for Phi Kappa Phi's national fellowships and awards, ECU's PKP chapter will invite these undergraduate scholars to be its guests and to be recognized at its spring initiation banquet.

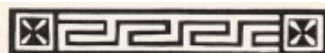
Furthering the cooperation between PKP and the Honors Program, officers and members of Phi Kappa Phi will attend the Honor's Program's Spring Recognition Ceremony.



Dr. Michael Bassman's Honors Seminar, Fall 2000

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