

★ NEWS ★



**PTK INDUCTS NEW MEMBERS-** Pearl River Community College's Iota Mu chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, an international honor society, recently inducted new members for the 2005-06 school year. Each candidate for membership must have completed 12 semester hours of associate degree work with a Grade Point Average of 3.4, adhered to the school conduct code, and possess recognized qualities of citizenship. Members maintain a Grade Point Average of 3.0. The students include from left: Front row - Kelli Thornton of Oak

Grove, Tarah Adams of Columbia, Amanda Husted of Sumrall, Paula Odom of Poplarville, Ashley Miller of Picayune, Emily Davis of Poplarville, George Cooper of Seminary, Iva Mitchell of Picayune, Iota Mu Secretary/Treasurer Mary Kathryn Oldmixom of Prentiss. Back row - Student Advisor/Psychology Instructor Ginny Miller, Iota Mu President Keyshon Fairley of Ellisville, Kevin Morris of Oak Grove, Clinton Melierine of McNeil, Grant Hogue of Oak Grove, Amber Gray of Meridian, Candy Stone of Poplarville, Kristen

Stamps of Prentiss, Robin Wade of Poplarville, Tracy Robertson of Columbia, Holly Pearman of Carriere, Iota Mu Scholarship Vice-President Shelley Pittman of Columbia, and (not pictured) Mandy Douglas of Columbia, Russell Gordon of Lumberton, Jessica Lange of Picayune, Whitney May of Poplarville, Kristie Nichols of Picayune, Evelyn Parker of Hattiesburg, Stacy Rayborn of Purvis, Elizabeth Robbins of Columbia, Kimberly Smith of Poplarville, and Summer Zulli of Picayune.

# Students helping students: Phi Theta Kappa tackles relief

Phi Theta Kappa members from Ohio to California are reaching out to their fellow community college students who are victims of Hurricane Katrina through the Society's Hurricane Relief Fund, a "students helping students" initiative.

In November, Phi Theta Kappa International President Arthur Vargas, Executive Director Rod Risley and other Headquarters staff representatives visited the campuses of Pearl River

Community College, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, and Jones County Junior College to speak personally with students, faculty and administrators about their dramatic losses and needs.

"Nearly all the students we spoke with were clinging to their colleges as they represented the only sense of normalcy or stability that remained in their lives," Risley said. "Students said they hated to leave their colleges to return home. At home they faced an

uncertain future living in FEMA trailers, still haggling with insurance companies, with no community left around them."

"Phi Theta Kappa and its 1,200 chapters around the world stand ready to help," Risley said. "This is a student-based effort — to help all community college students."

Students' storm stories are tremendously affecting, Risley said. "We spoke to students who one day had homes, jobs, schools, churches and security — all the things that make life normal. The next day their lives changed. Their homes are gone, their families' means of employment is gone, and everything that defined their sense of community is gone. Their spirits are resilient and they are not without hope — but they need our help, and they need it quickly."

"Imagine suddenly being unable to provide yourself and your family with food, shelter and all the basic necessities and you will begin to understand what has happened here."

For Ashley Ladner, a member at Pearl River Community College, the hurricane took her family's home, her mother's job and her entire community. Her hometown of Waveland is virtually unrecognizable. Hancock County, where Waveland is located, lost an estimated 80 percent of its tax base. "There's no place to call home anymore. It's not just my house that's gone, it's every place we know."

Marietta Gatewood, an art therapy major at Jones County Junior College in Ellisville, thought the worst crisis life would hand her would be breast cancer. "Maybe this is worse," she said, recounting that her parents, her sister, her daughter and other family relatives lost their homes.

Yuji Inoue did not even have the support of immediate family when the hurricane destroyed his home and possessions. A Japanese exchange student now attending

Gulf Coast Community College, Yuji and his host family found temporary shelter at the Gulfport Seabee Base. "My family wanted me to go back to Japan," he said, "but I wanted to stay. While I'm at school I feel normal. School is helping us emotionally."

Hurricane Katrina struck the Mississippi Gulf Coast on Aug. 29. Record surges of 30 feet onshore smashed the entire Mississippi Gulf Coast. As Katrina moved inland diagonally over Mississippi, high winds cut a swath of damage that affected almost the entire state. This made Katrina the most destructive and costliest natural

disaster in the history of the United States.

The official death toll now stands at 1,302 and the damage estimates range from \$70 to 130 billion. Over a million people were displaced — a humanitarian crisis on a scale unseen in the U.S. since the Great Depression.

Immediately after Katrina struck, Phi Theta Kappa's International Officers announced the Hurricane Relief Fund. "Words cannot describe the turmoil that these affected regions are going through," Vargas said. "Visiting with the students allowed us to hear their personal and emotional

stories.

"The Hurricane Relief Fund is a 'students helping students' initiative," Vargas continued. He emphasized that Phi Theta Kappa campus leaders should share their efforts with their entire college community.

"Together, we can help rebuild, restore, and revitalize their lives so these students can continue and pursue their educational goals," he concluded.

The response to the Relief Fund was immediate and enthusiastic.

Chapters in California and Ohio have recently concluded two-month long hurricane relief proj-

## Teacher Profile

**NAME:** Vic Cerniglia

**RESIDENCE:** Poplarville

**FAMILY:** Married to Nancy with two sons, Brady and Christian, one daughter, Victoria.

**EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:** Associates in Electronics, instrumentation, and automated manufacturing from PRCC and various classes from MSU, ASU, and USM.

**PRESENTLY TEACHES:** Electronics technology.


**TEACHING EXPERIENCE:** Seven years

**FAVORITE BOOK:** Holy Bible

**FAVORITE FOOD:** Lobster, crab, and shrimp

**POSITIVE ASPECTS OF TEACHING:** After my students graduate, they make more money than I do, but I find teaching to be a rewarding experience, and so I stay at PRCC.

**ADVICE FOR STUDENTS:** Keep your head up and don't let others drag you down. Think positively! Don't waste your time because time is valuable. And, most important to me, rely on God daily for everything you do, and give Him the credit.



Cerniglia



Phi Theta Kappa's Executive Director and International President recently visited with Mississippi community college students and officials in the areas devastated by Hurricane Katrina. At PRCC, they included from left: First row - Lindsey Lind of Kiln, James Rivenbark of Gulfport and Brandon Slade of Bay St. Louis. Back row - Ashley Ladner of Waveland, Keyshon Fairley of Ellisville, International President Arthur Vargas, PRCC President William Lewis and Executive Director Rod Risley.

**ACROSS**

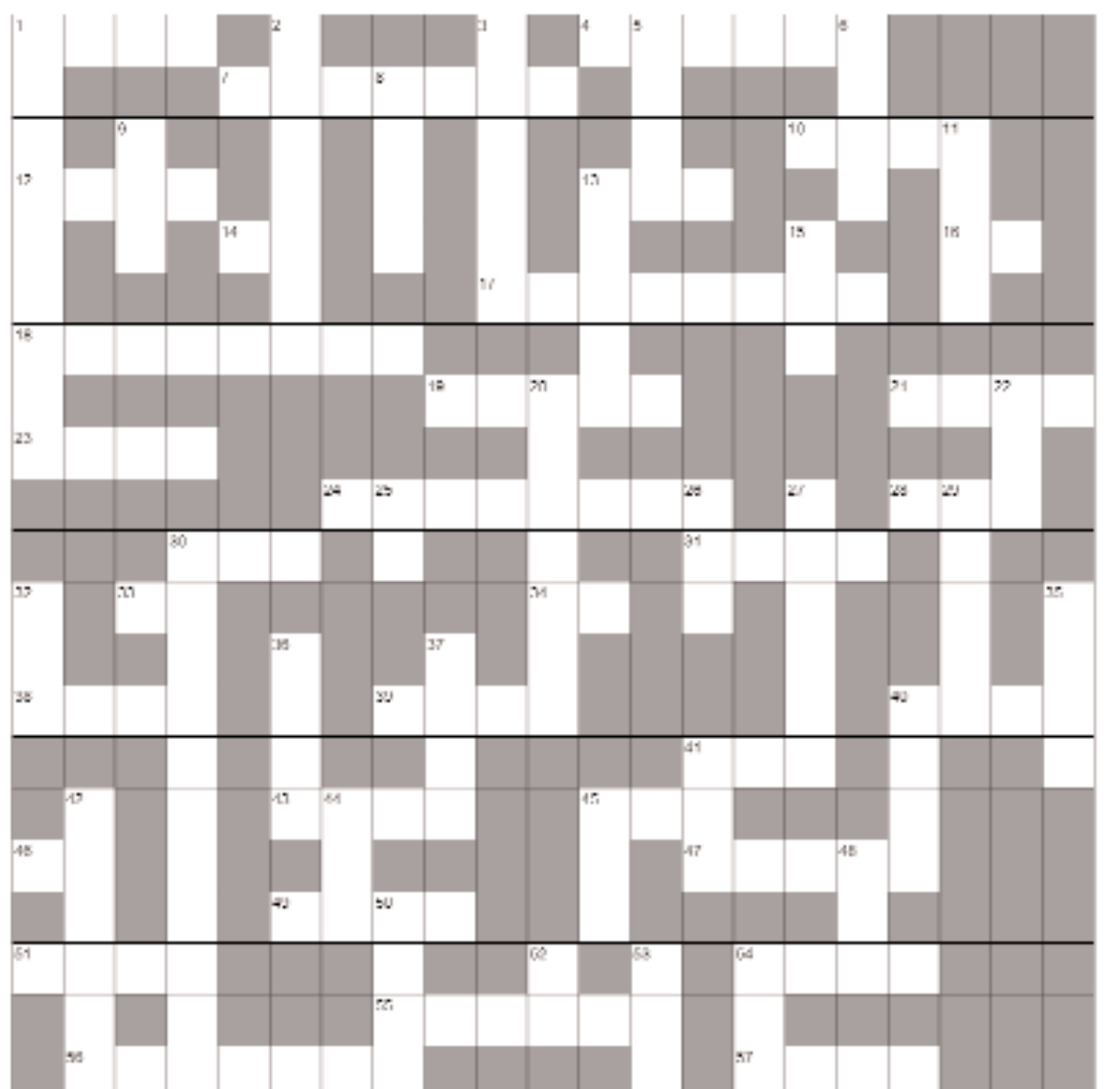
1. Student's lodging
4. Payment for an education
10. Math course (abbrv.)
12. Io, for one
13. Baptist club
14. Chemical symbol for Iron
16. Required subject in the '20s (abbrv.)
17. Teacher's plan for the course
18. Saved Mississippi public education; library
19. Another term for "copy"
21. Insurance commissioner and PRCC grad George \_\_\_\_\_
23. 1935 addition to curriculum
24. Feral felines
28. Academic test taken to enter PRCC
30. Attempted after a TD
31. Humanities found here
33. Your homework!
34. Initials for score in this sport
38. Federal financial aid for students
39. Type of phone used by students
40. Animals that lived on campus until 1986
41. Identifier code
43. Building or corridor
45. Folding bed
46. The Spanish affirmative
47. Name of first PRAHS Superintendent
49. Evaluate
51. Bad news for a student
54. Unassisted offensive kick
55. Building named for lumber man
56. Senator, space center, airport
57. Optical part of camera

**DOWN**

1. Band leader
2. Last name of famous singer who attended PRC
3. Select PRCC vocal ensemble
5. Music, theater, drawing, sculpture...
6. Socially challenged intellectual
8. Abbr. for technology
9. Slang for person holding the degree higher than master's
11. E. W. Hale's nickname
13. Former trustee had the married dorm named for him
15. Star
20. Performance for a grade
22. English writings, for one
25. A pass for college events
26. Grant funded office offering financial and tutorial help to students (init.)
27. One of PRCC's supporting counties
29. Hair care profession (abbrv.)
30. PRCC's main campus location
32. Baseballer's headgear
35. Artwork, usually bronze
36. Only U.S. President to visit PRCC
37. Hung in Jacobs and Malone Chapel
40. Only woman on PRCC Board of Trustees
41. Campus honors group
42. May and December tests
44. Slang for did well on a test
45. Western \_\_\_\_\_ (abbrv.)
48. Nursing program on main campus and at Forrest County Center
50. Southern accreditation org. (init.)
52. PRCC won national title here
53. Basketball, for one
54. Society for business majors

## Wildcat Crossword

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**Correct answers to puzzle on page 11**