



Good as Gold

Belmont Technical College inducts 33 students into the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society

A new step was taken in the educational journey of a select group of students at Belmont Technical College on May 13.

Thirty-three students were inducted into Beta Theta Mu, BTC's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), during a special ceremony at the College. Induction into Phi Theta Kappa, one of the most prestigious international honor societies in the country, recognizes academic achievement of students at two-year colleges.

BTC President, Dr. Joseph E. Bukowski, who led the notion of starting the BTC chapter of Phi Theta Kappa in 1999, gave the students encouragement for the future.

"The world you live in today is very different from the world of 20 or 30 years ago and we cannot predict how it is going to be in the next 20 or 30 years," he said. "I do believe education and knowledge are the keys to success no matter what the future unveils in the career you have chosen." Bukowski also stressed the fact that in the workforce what matters most is not a student's GPA, but rather how much experience each individual brings to the organization. Reaching this stage of success is quite an achievement since many of the students have responsibilities beyond the realm of their education, including being part of the workforce and being parents. During the ceremony, several inductees were accompanied by their biggest fans – their children.

One example was Karrie Puskas, a pre-nursing student and resident of Bridgeport. The full-time mom has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Ohio University. She decided to go back to college after being laid off. "I was scared at first, but I have found that Belmont Technical College gives me the opportunity to schedule classes conveniently, so I can spend time with my family and still have time to get my coursework done." Karrie is not the only one in her family to attend Belmont. Tom Mellott II, Karrie's brother, attended BTC for two years before transferring to Ohio University-Eastern to complete a bachelor's degree.

Karrie's goal is to become an obstetric nurse and offer the same quality of care she had when she gave birth to her two sons. She also has a role model to emulate: her mother Margie Mellott, who has been a nurse at East Ohio Regional Hospital for almost 19 years and who is also a Phi Theta Kappa member.

The Phi Theta Kappa society is growing at the local, regional, and national levels. According to Phi Theta Kappa Advisor, Jennifer Redrup, Belmont Technical College had an increase of 10%

over the members inducted last year. “We also had the opportunity to participate for the first time in the regional event held in March at St. Clair Community College - Dayton. The experience gave us the chance to increase our network and engage students to become better citizens and leaders.”

Phi Theta Kappa Co-Advisor, Charles Dawson, commented that PTK students were not only being inducted into a scholarly fellowship embracing two-year colleges in Ohio, but also in a fellowship around the United States of America and the world.

Phi Theta Kappa requires a cumulative Grade Point Average of at least 3.75 for acceptance, in addition to 20 credit hours or more of college level courses completed at Belmont Technical College. One student, Mary Ostrander, went beyond the membership and also became the Beta Theta Mu Chapter president. Mary is an Accounting and Associate of Arts student at the College, in addition to being the Southeastern Ohio District PTK Representative.

The mission of Phi Theta Kappa is to recognize and encourage scholarship among two-year college students through development of leadership and service, and provide an intellectual climate of exchange of ideas and ideals, and lively fellowship for scholars, and promote a stimulating interest in continuing academic excellence.

Inductees participating in the ceremony received a white flower and were congratulated by Dr. Bukowski. The students who were inducted and their hometowns include:

Barnesville: John Dean Blatter, Timothy Allen Ferguson, Samantha Kay Jefferis, Amy Dawn Moore

Barton: Marc Joseph Roth

Bellaire: Roger Lee Wade

Bethesda: Dorthea Louise Blon-Reineke, Megan M. Jack

Bridgeport: Kristin Danielle Booher, Karrie Ann Puskas

Cadiz: Joseph Andrew Chesla

Columbus: Joseph Jessop Warren

Fairpoint: Matt John Cilles

Holloway: Ashley Louise Hines

Jacobsburg: Nicole Joy Wilson

Jewett: Sara Kay Blake

Lewisville: Jennifer Lynn Childress, Dylan Jerome Miller, Kristi Lynn Parker

Martins Ferry: Melissa Ann Roach

Morristown: Angela Nicole Wines

Powhatan Point: Jennifer Marie Bednar, Stephanie Renae Isaly

Quaker City: Cindy Ann Arnold

Sardis: Allison M. Ellis

Shadyside: Douglas Zuboski

Steubenville: Maryann Bush-Jeter

St. Clairsville: William Edward Faibanks, Kelli Breanne Hartline, Cornelia A. Pollock

Wheeling: Heidi Jo Kins, Kevin Michael Sofka

Woodsfield: Margaret Ann Chewning