



Nelson Mandela said it the best when he stated, **"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."** As a son of immigrant parents I was taught at a young age that work was more important than an education. I was taught that working was more rewarding than education because we had to support our family financially. This tendency seems to be the cultural mentality

within the Portuguese community of my generation.

Witnessing the struggles my parents went through with only a fourth grade education, was the result of many personal struggles in my own life. After I graduated from high school I did the honorable thing by going to work to support my family, even though that was not what I wanted to do. During six years of working dead end jobs, I decided I needed to go to college to further my education. In 1995, I applied to attend Bristol Community College but before the semester started I was in a car accident which left me in a coma for about three months. During my rehabilitation, I was diagnosed with a learning disability from the car accident. Since I had a learning disability I thought that the only thing I was good for was to support my family.

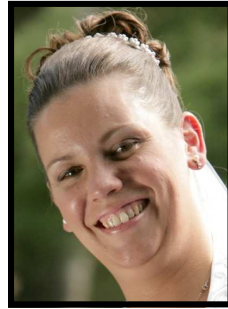
The struggles that I had to go through enabled me to finally realize that education was important not only to better myself but so that I could also better others which has effectively been my greatest accomplishment. I would like everyone to know that when I first received the invitation to join Phi Theta Kappa I turned it down because I thought "Why do they want me? I am no one special". I had low self-esteem and I was embarrassed about my learning disability.

During a heart to heart discussion with my chapter advisor, Mr. Raymond Puchot, he told me that I overcame a lot of barriers personally and academically and he was right about my personal journey to better myself. Even though he was right about my achievements, I was still kind of hesitant to join. He told me to do some research on Phi Theta Kappa. It was after doing the research that I decided to accept the invitation.

What caught my interest about this honor society were the four hallmarks: scholarship, leadership, service and fellowship. Out of the four hallmarks, three of them were what I based my life and who I am on. These three hallmarks are leadership, service and fellowship. Phi Theta Kappa has helped me and is going to continue to help me with my leadership skills. Becoming a good leader will enable me to lead others within my Portuguese community; as well as, other members of my community to attain their education. Service will help me to educate the community, especially the older generation, their children and the future generations to understand that education is the future. Fellowship will help me work with others by helping them to go for the "GOLD" and as a whole community we can go out there and pay it forward for the future leaders of the world.

Nelson Mandela was right when he stated that, **"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world"** and that is what Phi Theta Kappa is all about.

Joseph Frias
Officer-at-Large
New England Region
Email: Josephfrias.oalptk@yahoo.com



Talking about me has never been my strongest area, so I will try my best. My name is Jill Bouchard and I am honored to be your Officer-at-Large. I was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa in April 2007. In all honesty, I had no idea what Phi Theta Kappa was until I received my invitation letter. I was shocked that I was being invited to join this group and that I even had a G.P.A. that high. I became an active member last fall when I received an e-mail from the Dean of Students announcing a Phi Theta Kappa meeting. So I went and as the saying goes, *"The rest is history!"* I have been more active than I ever thought I would have been and I absolutely love it!!

Last year I got the opportunity to go to the Regional Conference and the International Convention in Philadelphia! What awesome opportunities and fun they both were. Going to these events inspired me to go back to my chapter and motivate the other members as I had been. I am currently serving as my chapter's President at Central Maine Community College. I have such pride in my campus and my chapter Alpha Phi Xi that I welcome you to make the trip to Maine and visit.

On a more personal get-to-know-you level, I was just married to the second love of my life in July 2007. He has been such an inspiration and cheerleader for me. The first love of my life is my 10-year-old son. He has taught me more about life than I think I would have learned without him in it. My son is physically and mentally handicapped. Raising him has given me many challenges but it has also given me strength. I donate my spare time at his school and with the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The children you meet through that foundation teach you that everyday is worth living to the fullest.

I hope to be able to meet as many of you as possible. I enjoy meeting new people and learning things about where they are from. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions

that you may have or if you would like to have a Regional Officer present at any of your Phi Theta Kappa functions. I cannot wait to start the new semester and work with all of you to make our region thrive! Hope you have a great academic year and to see you soon!

Sincerely,

Jill Bouchard
Officer-at-Large
New England Region
E-mail: jbouchardptk@yahoo.com



Throughout the year, your regional officer team holds monthly meetings. Our goal is to hold these meetings at a different campus each month throughout the region. These Saturday afternoon meetings offer the host chapter an opportunity to sit in on a meeting and share things that your chapter has been involved with. In return, it gives us the opportunity to achieve this officer team's number one goal, which is to "Personally Reach Chapter Members." We are genuinely interested in getting to know you and learning how we can best support you. Our second goal is to "Raise Awareness of All Chapter Members of the Regions Presence and its Programming." Hosting a regional meeting is a great way for Chapters and the Regional Team to build personal connections, share experiences, and to learn more about the regions programming and our exciting plans for this year.

Let's synergize our region!

We would love to come to your campus! If you are interested in hosting a regional meeting please contact:

Brooke Bohannon, President

brookerbo.ptk@gmail.com

Or

Michelle Brinck, Coordinator

mbrinck@ncc.commnet.edu

Regional Officer Meeting Schedule

Saturday, September 6, 2008
(Bristol Community College, MA)

Saturday, October 4, 2008

Saturday, November 8, 2008

Saturday, January 24, 2009

(Landmark College, VT)

Saturday, February 21, 2009
(Manchester Community College, CT)



New England Region
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NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL OFFICER TEAM



SYNERGY





Hello my fellow Phi Theta Kappans,
I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you, and to let you know a little bit about who I am.
My name is Brooke Bohannon and I am your New England Region President.

I was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa in 2006, and have been an active member ever since. I had the pleasure of serving as chapter president for my chapter Alpha Iota Nu at Norwalk Community College in Connecticut. I have also had the pleasure of serving as your Regional Central Vice President last year.

Throughout my time as a member, I have had the privilege of attending several conferences and conventions, both on the regional and international levels. I highly recommend attending any or all of the conferences or conventions offered to you. They are very beneficial and motivating to each individual and chapter. I have also attended; river clean-ups, the Heart Walk, the Breast Cancer Walk, the AIDS walk and a number of other events. I am letting you know all of this to help you understand that I am a motivated and dedicated member of this organization, and my hope is that I will be able to motivate you all, as well as show you how rewarding Phi Theta Kappa can be, not only for yourself, but also for your community and our world.

I am very excited about our upcoming year and am positive that it is going to be a great one!

Please don't hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns. And don't forget to check out our regional website at www.neptk.org. We will be updating this regularly, so if you do have any questions, your answer might be there... if not, again don't hesitate to contact me or any of our other regional officers.

We will also be putting out regular regional newsletters, so please send in any info and/or pictures you may have about your chapter that you would like to be added to the newsletter.

Brooke Bohannon And one last thing (for now :)...mark your calendars...Our Regional Leadership Conference is Friday, Oct. 17, 2008 and Saturday, Oct. 18, 2008.

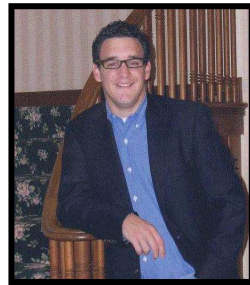
All updates...Coming Soon!

I look forward to working with you all!

Sincerely,

Brooke Bohannon
President
New England Region
Email: brookerbo.ptk@gmail.com

Cell: 203.253.0352



Hello
My Name is Craig Champley and I am your Northern Vice President. The summer is over and I would like to welcome you back to campus and wish you a successful fall term. With your busy class schedule, time will fly. Before we know it, it will be time for the **Regional Leadership Conference** in North Haven, Connecticut. This will be held **October 17th** and

18th so please mark your calendars. I look forward to personally getting to know you throughout the year, so let me tell you a little about myself.

I am a 21 year old student at Landmark College in Putney VT majoring in Liberal Arts. I plan on transferring to a four year school to study political science. I was inducted to Phi Theta Kappa in 2007 and served as Chapter President. One of my responsibilities as a regional officer is, to maintain the regional website, which can be found at www.neptk.org. This website is full of timely information about the region and its programming.

I want to congratulate the following chapters for setting their five star program goals this year,

Central Maine Community College (Alpha Phi Xi),
Landmark College, VT (Beta Alpha Epsilon)
McIntosh College, NH (Beta Gamma Gamma),

NHTI - Concord's Community College (Alpha Upsilon Omicron)

Northern Maine Community College (Alpha Phi Epsilon), Southern Maine Community College (Alpha Chi Nu),

If you still haven't reported your status you can do so at http://www.ptk.org/fivestar/fs_forms.htm

I am here to help you in any way. If you need someone to speak at your Induction Ceremony, I would be happy to do that! If you want some help with the new Honors Topic The Paradox of Affluence I would be more than happy to share information I have gathered at The Honors Institute. Please don't hesitate to contact me with all and any questions and concerns you may encounter.

Good luck as you begin the Fall Semester! And again, I look forward to seeing you at the Regional Conference in October!

Respectfully,

M. Craig Champley
Northern Vice President
New England Region
Phi Theta Kappa
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Hello!
My name is Kim Rodrigues, and I am proud to represent our New England Region of Phi Theta Kappa as your Central Vice President for 2008-2009. About me: Currently, I'm a full time student in the Communication program at Bristol Community College in Fall River, MA. Although I was born in MA, I have been blessed to spend a lot of time in other parts of our country, which I believe gave me a broader view of life. I'm also a Mom raising two teenage boys, and have a son in the Army, currently serving in Iraq.

My "work" revolves around things that are important to me. The two things that I do are a Communication Coordinator for a local non-profit whose mission is to reduce youth substance abuse in Greater Fall River and vision is to create a healthy community for the youth of Greater Fall River; as well as, working as a student work study for BCC's Service Learning, Community Service and Community Service Leadership programs. This affords me the opportunity to bring people together, to do great work that benefits students, the college, and community at large. In addition, I own and operate a small business and run a project called "Soldiers In Our Hearts" which seeks to identify loved ones of service members in every day life.

Why add another thing to my plate? I do this because Phi Theta Kappa clearly embodies much of what I hold dear and strive to maintain in my life. They are academic excellence and scholarship, service, leadership and fellowship. I have found it to be an invaluable experience, to be with like minded people who are in similar circumstances and doing great things. Being involved with this society provides that opportunity.

We are all students with many obligations, we understand the amount of hard work, dedication, sacrifice, drive and determination to succeed that it took us to get to this point in our lives. We also know that it isn't always easy, it does get hard sometimes. One cannot be truly successful in an academic environment or any environment, on one's own. People need people to survive and to thrive. At its root, this society understands that.

Phi Theta Kappa's mission is to 1) recognize and encourage the academic achievement of two-year college students and 2) provide opportunities for individual growth and development through participation in honors, leadership, service and fellowship programming. This organization understands the challenges that 2 year college students face. They also understand the reason we're here to begin with, which is to fulfill our potential and do something greater with our lives.

Here, I learn so much from students and advisors alike. People continually amaze me. This reenergizes me and gives me the strength to keep moving in a positive direction. Our world is so diverse. No one person holds a magic key for solutions and resolutions to the challenges that we face as a community and country. But, when we all bring our best to the table, we can move mountains. Please consider all that Phi

Theta Kappa has to offer. We hope you'll join us. Check out the international website at <http://www.ptk.org/> and our own New England Region website at <http://www.neptk.org/>. Your regional officer team is here to assist you in taking advantage of all that Phi Theta Kappa has to offer. I look forward to working with you to that end.

All the best,

Kim Rodrigues
Phi Theta Kappa
New England Region
Central Vice President
Email: kimrodriguesptk@yahoo.com



Greetings! My name is Julie Larkin and I am the New England Southern Regional Vice-President. In October 2006, I was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa. I felt proud to be selected to be a member of such a prestigious organization. It was quite exhilarating to be acknowledged for my academic accomplishments. As I

became more involved in the activities and community service projects that Phi Theta Kappa supports, I experienced the feeling of goodwill in helping others. I was also given unlimited opportunities to grow as a person and have acquired valuable leadership skills. As a result, I am academically and socially a more well-rounded individual.

I have had the privilege of serving as the Vice-President of Finance and Induction Coordinator in 2007-2008 for my chapter, Alpha Upsilon Alpha at Manchester Community College in Manchester, CT and am now currently serving as the newly elected Alpha Upsilon Alpha Chapter President for 2008-2009. What better way to learn more about Phi Theta Kappa than to volunteer as an officer or coordinator!

One of the main reasons that I made the decision to become a member of Phi Theta Kappa was to become involved in community activities and to participate in raising the awareness of our organization. I believe as a result of my experiences through Phi Theta Kappa that I have grown personally. I have also made several long-lasting friendships. I look forward to continuing that growth while serving you on a regional level. Please feel free to contact me anytime.

Julie Larkin
Southern Regional Vice-President
New England Region
Email: larkinjann@comcast.net

