

**PHI THETA KAPPA
INTERNATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY**

*Eta Kappa Chapter
Black Hawk College Quad-Cities Campus*

FALL 2020 INDUCTION CEREMONY



**Sunday, Nov. 29, 2020
2:00 p.m.**

PROGRAM

Welcome, Introductions & Remarks

Nicole Banks, *Phi Theta Kappa Advisor*

Blaise Kinto, *Vice President of Fellowship*

Scholarship Information

Jana Koch, *Director of Student Life and Engagement*

Mission of Phi Theta Kappa

Derrick McBride, *Vice President of Scholarship*

Introduction of Inductees & Oath of Membership

Tori Nielsen, *Vice President of Leadership*

Oath: Lydia Olson, Alexa Mahoney, Rachel McCaughey,
and Morgan Litwiler, *Alumni members* AND

Blaise Kinto, Tori Nielsen and John Martin, *Current
Members*

Congratulations from Administration

Dr. Jennifer Miller, *Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences*

Golden Apple Presentation

Leah Mueller, *Vice President of Service*

Fall 2020 Recipients

Mike Seevers, *BHC tutor*

Chris Appuhn, *associate professor*

Congratulations Presentation Videos

Jay Dykstra and Liam Lerschen, *PTK members*

Alumni Congrats

Alexa Mahoney, *alumni member*

Link to Outtake: “*Horsing Around*” by Tori Nielsen

PTK Slideshow

THE 2020-2021 HONORS STUDY TOPIC

To the Seventh Generation: Inheritance and Legacy

By Susan Edwards

Associate Vice President, Honors Programming and
Undergraduate Research, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

There's a history through her

Sent to us as a gift from the future

To show us the proof

More than that, it's to dare us to move

And to open our eyes and to learn from the sky...

And live like we're still alive

~ Sara Bareilles

What did we inherit from our ancestors, and what legacy can we leave for future generations? Sara Bareilles, in her 2013 song “Chasing the Sun,” pondered life on a grand scale. Bareilles sang, “It’s a really old city, stuck between the dead and the living, so I thought to myself sitting on a graveyard shelf, as the echo of heartbeats, from the ground below my feet, filled a cemetery in the center of Queens.” She contemplated the names and dates of people buried there and concluded from the symphony of their heartbeats that life is meant to be meaningful. We can try our best. We can chase the sun. Our hopes, dreams, fears and challenges are meaningful when placed in the context of our ancestors and descendants to the seventh generation and beyond. Like Bareilles, Amelia Earhart argued that we should chase our dreams. “The most difficult thing,” Earhart said, “is the decision to act. The rest is merely tenacity.”

Ojibwe culture is credited with the concept of thinking about decisions with the seventh generation in mind. The Ojibwe are part of the Haudenosaunee who believe they are connected to the first people who walked on Earth and to those people who are yet to be born. According to Rick Hill, Sr., Tuscarora of the Beaver clan and former Special Assistant to the Director of the Smithsonian’s Museum of the American Indian,

people living today are the bridge between ancestors and descendants. To Hill, “We inherit a duty, we inherit a responsibility... Don’t just come here expecting to benefit. You come here to work hard so that the future can enjoy that benefit.” To Oren Lyons, Onondaga Faithkeeper of the Turtle Clan of the Seneca Nations, it is vital to think about people beyond your generation so that they can enjoy the culture, way of life, and preservation of the land your generation inherited.

In a 2006 interview with the Public Broadcasting System’s Christine Turner, Bill Moyers discussed his play, *The Seven*, an adaptation of Aeschylus’ tragedy, *Seven Against Thebes* (476 B.C.E.). Both plays explored the idea that generations have questioned whether they control their destinies or whether destiny is out of their control. Moyers argued that every generation has grappled with what they inherit from their ancestors and what they will leave behind. He told Turner that he had come to the conclusion that his legacy would be love – that he tried to make decisions based on love, rather than on fear.

Columnist Charles Blow wrote about legacy and children in a 2019 *New York Times* piece. We strive, Blow contended, to teach children “how honor and integrity are constructed, maintained, and defended. We want to raise good people and good citizens, people who respect society and follow the rules, though not blindly. We want them to question the world, and if they identify injustice, work to eliminate it.” When the United States Women’s Soccer Team won the 2019 World Cup, the Nike Corporation released a television commercial with a powerful message about legacy. In it, the narrator expressed the hope that, “a whole generation of girls and boys will go out and play and say things like, ‘I want to be like Megan Rapinoe when I grow up,’ and they’ll be inspired to talk and win and stand up for themselves.” How do we raise children who thrive and who understand their connection to ancestors and responsibilities to generations that follow them?

Humans have long been interested in their place in the universe, but perceptions have fluctuated over time as scientists built on legacies left by scholars who came before them. Ancient and Medieval peoples sought ways to explain the cosmos and believed it was ruled by supernatural beings, the Earth was flat, and planets revolved around the Earth. As

scientific astronomy developed, so did new understandings of the cosmos. Two comets helped advance what humans understood about natural and constructed environments. In 1543, Nicolaus Copernicus determined that the sun, not Earth, was at the center of the universe. He believed that the universe was composed of crystalline spheres, and scientists who followed Copernicus found his arguments compelling. In Denmark, Tycho Brahe thought that knowledge of how the cosmos worked could help predict events on Earth. As the king's astrologer, Brahe was given one percent of Denmark's budget to create the world's best observatory. When in 1577, a great comet passed close to Earth for two months and was seen around the world, Brahe tracked its trajectory through the orbit of Venus. Brahe noted that crystalline spheres should have stopped the comet. Logically, then, the spheres did not exist.

Johannes Kepler, a German scientist who worked in Prague and who also witnessed the 1577 comet, argued that religious and ancient ideas about the cosmos should be discarded. Empirical observation, he believed, should be the basis for understanding science. Kepler recalculated Brahe's precise calculations to determine that planets moved in ellipses, rather than circles. Working in 17th-century England, Isaac Newton added that studying the universe in a holistic way would help science reveal God's master plan. Another comet, this one in 1680, would be seen during the day and reappeared in 1681. Newton concluded that gravity surrounding the Sun had caused the comet to travel in an elliptical motion and that gravity was the glue that held the universe together. The work done by Copernicus, Brahe, Kepler and Newton laid groundwork for siblings Caroline Herschel and William Herschel to build powerful telescopes in the 18th century, Albert Einstein's Theory of Relativity, Georges Lemaître's recalculation of Einstein's theory to show the universe was expanding, and Edwin Hubble's 100-inch telescope. Their work has, in turn, led to the development of the Extremely Large Telescope (ELT). The ELT is under construction in Chile's Atacama Desert and will allow 13 times more light than older telescopes (100 million times more light than human eyes can naturally see).

Dr. Alexandra Amon, astrophysicist and observational cosmologist at Stanford University, has said that we know only five

percent of the observable universe. Continuing to measure what is going on in the universe is the only way to understand the cosmos and how it relates to the human experience. The legacies of these scientists and artisans will inspire 21st-century explorers and innovators as they examine more than 100 billion galaxies currently known to exist.

Singers, songwriters and business people have explored the building blocks of human experience through country music stories. The country music industry annually pulls in more than two billion dollars and accounts for nearly 35 percent of the recorded music industry's revenue in the United States. Its popularity is global. There are Hank Williams cover bands in Spain, saddle-topped barstools in the Czech Republic, and line dancing halls in Argentina. In Iran, the Dream Rovers, Shahryar Masrouf and Thunder are melding American country music with traditional Iranian tunes. Filmmaker Ken Burns studied the history of country music for his 2019 documentary series and found that the industry had created a unique relationship with fans. The Carters, considered the first family of country music whose legacy is considered the foundation for the rest of country music's artists, initially stayed in fans' homes to save money when they toured. Stars like Dolly Parton, Charley Pride, Garth Brooks, Keith Urban and Blake Shelton, who followed the Carters, regularly participated in fanfests, spending hours signing autographs and posing for photographs that helped them connect with the people who listened to and purchased their music. Ernest Tubb, another of the pioneers of country music, known as the "Texas Troubadour," explained, "We built this industry one handshake at a time."

Burns found that country had its roots in many music traditions, blues, jazz, hillbilly, as well as the United States immigrant experience. Singer-songwriter Rhiannon Giddens' influences included strong women like Reba McEntire, Mary Chapin Carpenter and Kathy Mattea who continued the legacy of strong female stars set by Sara and Maybelle Carter. Giddens appreciated that, "Jazz emphasizes this, blues emphasizes this, country emphasizes this, but they are all part of the American music pot. It's America, but it's got Africa in it." Songwriter Harlan Howard, who wrote more than 4,000 songs and who was called "the Dean of Nashville songwriters" by Rolling Stone, explained in song the appeal of country music. It is "Three Chords and the Truth."

Thirteenth-century theologian Thomas Aquinas synthesized the philosophy of Aristotle with the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church and saw reason and revelation as complementary means of knowing truth. Aquinas realized the value in listening to expressions of truth articulated by all people. He believed, “We must love them both, those whose opinions we share and those whose opinions we reject, for both have labored in the search for truth, and both have helped in finding it.” To what extent is honoring others’ opinions still desirable and possible in a seemingly polarized, post-truth world? What legacies do we build when we search for and express truth?

Harriet Tubman had a vision for her life based on the truth that, as journalist Sheryl WuDunn has argued, the greatest injustice of the 19th century was slavery. Tubman said, “Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.” Tubman’s truth was expressed through her active resistance to the institution of slavery. James Baldwin who wrote about the legacy of slavery and the human condition, expressed his truth, “It took many years of vomiting up all the filth I had been taught about myself, and half-way believed, before I was able to walk on the Earth as though I had a right to be here.” He left a legacy of resistance, great literature and inspiring words for people like Billy Porter, who paraphrased Baldwin in his acceptance speech when, in 2019, Porter became the first openly gay man to win an Emmy Award for Best Actor in a Drama Series.

Duchess Harris, alumna of the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program and Professor and Chair of the American Studies Department at Macalester College, wanted people to think about inheritance and legacy. Her interest in inheritance and legacy was the impetus to explore her grandmother’s history as one of NASA’s earliest female mathematicians. Miriam Mann worked on the Friendship 7 project, and Harris created her “Human Computers at NASA” digital archives project to highlight the work and heritage of women like Mann.

Along with the global legacy of slavery, WuDunn argues that the greatest injustice for the 21st century is global gender inequality. She has argued that in the West, there are more women than men because women have access to food and health care. As a result, they live longer than did their ancestors. Demographers have determined, though, that there are between 60 million and 100 million females in the rest of the global population. WuDunn explained that there are several reasons for having fewer women worldwide. Over the past 50 years, more girls were “discriminated to death” than all people killed in 20th-century wars. Advancements in sonograms have meant rises in the number of abortions of female fetuses in resource-scare areas of the world. And, after the first year of life when most children worldwide breastfeed, girls are fed less food and more often than boys die of starvation. Education and economic opportunity for females, WuDunn argued, is key to fighting overpopulation and pervasive poverty and leaving a legacy for future generations.

In Amor Towles’ *A Gentleman in Moscow* (2016), the character Richard Vanderwhile mused, “I guess the point I’m trying to make is that as a species we’re just no good at writing obituaries. We don’t know how a man or his achievements will be perceived three generation from now, any more than we know what his great-great-grandchildren will be having for breakfast on a Thursday in March. Because when Fate hands something down to posterity, it does so behind its back.” While we may not know how our achievements will be perceived generations from now, we can, to quote Sara Bareilles, “chase the sun” and do our best to learn from the past, to make life meaningful, to take responsibility for our actions, to be tenacious in our efforts, and to leave the best possible legacy to the seventh generation. *Aandi ezhaayan?* (Where are you going?)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR INDUCTEES

As your name is read, please step forward to greet your advisor, officers and administrators and take a candle from the table and sign the registration book. After all inductees’ names are read, we will light the candles, which represent the light of knowledge and learning, the common ideal for members of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Please remain standing, and we will lead you in the Oath of Membership.



OATH OF MEMBERSHIP

“I, State Your Name, do solemnly promise on this 29th day of November to uphold the standards of Phi Theta Kappa, and to keep this object and aim in my mind, and I do solemnly pledge allegiance to my fellow members and promise to aid them in all worthy endeavors.”



PHI THETA KAPPA HISTORY

Established by Missouri two-year college presidents in 1918, Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society serves to recognize and encourage the academic achievement of two-year college students and provide opportunities for individual growth and development through honors, leadership, and service programming.

Today, Phi Theta Kappa is the largest honor society in American higher education with more than 3 million members and 1,250 chapters located in 50 United States, U.S. territories, Canada, and Germany. In 1929, the American Association of Community Colleges recognized Phi Theta Kappa as the official honor society for two-year colleges.

Eta Kappa, The Black Hawk College Chapter for the Quad Cities Campus, was founded in 1950. It is the second-oldest chapter in Illinois.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Ashton Alexander

Dillan Bideaux

Madison Coopman

Sarah Cullett

Jay Dykstra

Katelyn Fleming

Zailey Greeno

Kelly Hansen

Jennifer Hatt Khrapov

Megan Holevoet

Becca Holloway

Darius Holt

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Alexander Johnson

Stefani Kelsey

Latre Sibi Lawson Epse Eklu Koku

Liam Lerschen

Lyla Longabaugh

Tabetha Lopez

Kelly Nache

Alexandro Salazar

Joan Selhost

David Smith

Kennady Thies

Jasmine Whaley

FALL 2020

ETA KAPPA CHAPTER OFFICERS

Blaise Kinto - Vice President of Fellowship

Leah Mueller - Vice President of Service

Tori Nielsen - Vice President of Leadership

Derrick McBride – Vice President of Scholarship

E-mail advisor (banksn@bhc.edu) about available officer positions for Spring 2021.

ETA KAPPA CHAPTER ADVISORS

Nicole Banks, Contact Advisor

Dr. Jennifer Miller, Administrative Liaison



Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society of the two-year college has as its purpose to recognize and encourage scholarship among two-year college students.



To achieve this purpose Phi Theta Kappa provides the opportunity for development of leadership and service.