

**TENNESSEE REGION
 LEADERSHIP
 CONFERENCE
 JULY 22-23**

The PTK Tennessee Region Leadership Conference will be held at Martin Methodist College in Pulaski on July 22 – 23. Beta Kappa Theta is serving as the host chapter for the event. The conference is free. Dinner Friday evening and breakfast Saturday morning will be provided, as well as overnight accommodations in the college dorms. Among other things, our chapter will be handling registration and providing snacks. If you can attend, please contact Dr. Gidcomb at gidcomb@columbiastate.edu or 931-540-2716. Also, if you know of a company or group that might want to donate soft drinks, bottled water, or any type of snacks for the event please let Dr. Gidcomb know as soon as possible. Anyone who donates to the cause will be recognized in the conference program.

PROJECT GRADUATION HUGE SUCCESS



Front from left to right: Tamelia Lindsay, Dale Hobbs, Kara Huckaby (Director of The Family Center), Denny Rogers, Helaina Persinger, Jodi Broussard; back from left to right: PTK Advisors Lacey Benns and Barry Gidcomb, Justin Vero, Nicole Payne

The Columbia State Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa recently completed its annual Project Graduation Food and Children’s Book Drive. On the Columbia campus 570 food items and 261 children’s books were collected for The Family Center. The Family Center provides assistance to needy families in Columbia. PTK members at Columbia State’s Williamson County campus collected 634 food items and 26 children’s books to be donated to Bridges of Williamson County.

NEW CHAPTER OFFICERS

- President – Columbia Campus: **Helaina Persinger**
- President – Williamson County: **Bill Lanier**
- Vice President – Service: **Denny Rogers**
- Vice President – Scholarship: **Bethany Woodard**
- Vice President – Leadership: **Jeff Blocker**
- Vice President – Fellowship: **Tamelia Lindsay**
- Vice President – Williamson County: **Karyn Haggard**
- Recording Secretary: **Amanda Gustin**
- Public Relations: **Sarah Pharo**
- Historian: **LaMonica Arnold**

BETA KAPPA THETA NEWSLETTER

RELAY FOR LIFE

Hi PTK Members,

Congratulations on a successful PTK project. Our chapter raised over \$2300.00 for cancer research. I just wanted to tell each of you how proud I am of your hard work and obvious success. A special thanks to Karyn Haggard. She was our representative and attended all the Relay meetings all spring. Bill Lanier did an excellent job of coordinating and helping with the details. Thanks also to all the students who worked the car wash and the memorial table to raise money. Bethany Cosand and Emily Short did a wonderful job with the tent decorations and worked hard making cotton candy. Karyn, Bethany, Emily, and Daniel Elliott stayed the entire night and packed and loaded the truck Saturday morning. Abby Wallace, Cheryl Wood, Holly Sylvester and her honey, and Jaymie Krasinski walked and helped sell popcorn. If I left out anyone I apologize. If you could not join us, you missed a great experience. Thanks again to everyone who participated.

Jan Whitley

ADVISOR AWARDED

Ms. Jan Whitley was recently honored by Phi Theta Kappa International with a Paragon Award for distinguished service. Ms. Whitley has served as the Advisor for Beta Kappa Theta since its inception in October 2001.

HOPE SCHOLARSHIP PETITION

Our chapter collected 341 signatures on the HOPE Scholarship petition initiated by the Omega Omicron chapter at Cleveland State Community College. The petition, which is being sent to Governor Phil Bredesen, asks the state to consider making HOPE Scholarships available to non-traditional students.

INTERNATIONAL HONORS INSTITUTE

Ms. Lacey Bennis, Columbia Campus Chapter President Helaina Persinger, and Williamson County Center President Bill Lanier will be attending the Phi Theta Kappa International Honors Institute in Las Vegas June 20 – 26. We will look forward to a report from them on the conference.

NEW FACULTY ADVISORS

The Beta Kappa Theta chapter welcomes two new faculty advisors. Ms. Lacey Bennis, an Assistant Professor of Speech, has taught at Columbia State since 2001. She has an M.S. in Speech Communications from Southern Illinois University. Ms. Bennis, an alumna of the Rho Xi chapter at Rend Lake College, recently participated in the PTK Tennessee Regional Convention in Memphis.

Ms. Tammy Borren, Associate Professor of Mathematics, has just completed her tenth year with Columbia State. In addition to an M.S.T. in Mathematics received in 1994, she recently earned an M.S. in Accounting from Middle Tennessee State University. Ms. Borren is based on the college's Williamson County Campus and she won the Columbia State Faculty Instructional Technology Award in 2004.