Although I grew up in a small nation, I have never thought that my dreams should be small. Opportunity is the place where vision and discovery meet. It is the place where action must be taken. Action with courage has led to greater discovery and greater opportunity enhancing my vision and journey.”

Jason Lee
All-USA Academic First Team Member

Donors may establish a scholarship in their name or in the name of one they wish to honor by providing an annual gift. Phi Theta Kappa recognizes individuals, families, foundations, companies, and organizations providing funds for merit or need-based scholarships to defray costs of pursuing associate, bachelor’s, and graduate degree programs at regionally or governmentally accredited institutions. Donors may make an annual gift each year to fund the scholarship or may establish an endowment for funding the scholarship permanently. In the case of an endowment, investment earnings from the donor’s gift are used to fund the named scholarship each year; the principal is not spent. Investment earnings should provide funds for a $1,000 minimum scholarship to be awarded annually.

For more information on how you can establish a scholarship at Phi Theta Kappa, contact Director of Institutional Advancement Dr. Nancy Rieves at 1.800.946.9995, ext. 3537, or nancy.rieves@ptk.org.
2006 Leader of Promise Solomon Bortey was a young teenager when his mother and father left him and his younger brother in the West African nation of Ghana to find work in the United States. Some years later the two boys joined their parents, but found their new life to be very different. Their parents went to work in the afternoon and returned in the morning, and while in Ghana the boys could rely upon their grandmother to help with household duties, they had no such support system in their adopted country.

So Bortey took responsibility for caring for his younger brother Steward, then in the sixth grade, assuming the role of a parent although he was still a teen himself.

“Caring for Steward has taught me that parenting is more than caretaking; it is taking up a responsibility beyond the norm and sight of a bachelor. Steward made me move beyond caring for myself,” Bortey said. “My experience with him has been an exercise in self-discipline.”

Bortey awakes early each morning, tends to household chores, makes breakfast for Steward and sees him off to school – all before attending classes himself at Rose State Community College in Oklahoma.

“As a semi-parent, I have to make sure Steward has done his homework and understands it, take him to and from school, soccer, basketball, and track practice, all of which I had never included in my definition of parenting,” Bortey said. His culture dictates that as the first-born, he has a responsibility to help care for his younger brother, but also must concentrate on his studies and obligations as a student leader.

A former Phi Theta Kappa chapter officer and Western District Vice President of the Oklahoma/Arkansas Region, Bortey was initially unfamiliar with the Society when he received his invitation to membership.

“I got involved in Phi Theta Kappa out of curiosity; I asked a friend who is a member, and she took me to the advisor who gave me more insight about the Society. After our discussion I accepted my invitation and was inducted that semester,” Bortey explained.

“Being part of the Society has really helped me personally and socially in that I have gone to places and met leaders from different backgrounds, ideologies, and schools. I do not know what I would do without Phi Theta Kappa.”

Phi Theta Kappa membership and the Society’s recognition opportunities helped Bortey overcome the challenges of cultural change and the transition from British to American English, he said, and becoming a Leader of Promise boosted his self-confidence even more.

“Being named a Leader of Promise made me realize that I have a great potential inside me and that whatever I plan to do, with perseverance, I can accomplish even more,” Bortey said. “The scholarship came at the right time – it helped with tuition and enabled me to buy my textbooks for the semester.”

Bortey is studying pre-med and computer engineering at Rose State, with plans to become a physician and work with the changing computer technologies. He hopes someday to return to his native Ghana to help educate youth.

Bortey dreams of attending Boston College, Harvard or Stanford – and while family obligations and finances will be a consideration, the one thing he has learned since coming to the United States is that with hard work, achieving big dreams is possible.

“There is a saying derived from Deuteronomy 30:19, ‘You are the result of the choices you made yesterday,’” Bortey said. “Today I do not regret my decisions on education, and above all the decision to accept membership in Phi Theta Kappa. Electing to become a Phi Theta Kappa member has been the greatest and the best choice in my life.”

You can make a difference in the lives of members like Solomon Bortey by supporting the Leaders of Promise Scholarship Program. Phi Theta Kappa is committed to the development of leadership and service through scholarship opportunities – the Leaders of Promise Scholarship Program is one way to provide students the ability to complete their degrees.
ABOUT LEADERS OF PROMISE SCHOLARSHIPS

• Phi Theta Kappa’s Leaders of Promise Scholarship Program was developed to provide Phi Theta Kappa members with funds to defray costs of completing their associate degrees.

• A total of 30 scholarships of $1,000 each are awarded based on applications submitted by members.

• Recipients are encouraged to participate in Phi Theta Kappa chapter activities by completing a series of leadership activities in order to receive the full scholarship.

Many Leaders of Promise Scholarship recipients have gone on to become chapter and regional officers, international officer candidates, and top scholarship recipients. The Leaders of Promise Scholarship Program is funded by donations to Phi Theta Kappa.

For more information on how you can support the Leaders of Promise Scholarship program, contact Director of Institutional Advancement Dr. Nancy Rieves at 1.800.946.9995, ext. 3537, or nancy.rieves@ptk.org.

Solomon Bortey gained leadership skills by assuming the role of a parent to help care for a younger brother.
Coca-Cola Scholarships recognize 187 Phi Theta Kappa members in 2006

The Coca-Cola Two-Year Colleges Scholarship Program is made possible with funding from the Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation. The Whitehead Foundation provides grants in support of human services initiatives.

Each year, every two-year institution is invited to nominate one student for the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation award. Selection is based on academic excellence and community service. Visit https://www.coca-colascholars.org/cokeWeb/jsf/scholars/Index.jsp for information.

187 Phi Theta Kappa members were selected to receive Coca-Cola Two-Year College Scholarships of $1,000 each in 2006. As many as 350 scholarships may be awarded.
Aja Patterson often closes her eyes and tries to put herself in the shoes of a teenage runaway, although she is in fact a successful first-generation community college student who manages two jobs and three volunteer responsibilities in addition to her 18-hour course load.

Patterson said she mastered the technique when she began to volunteer for the National Runaway Switchboard. Yet, life wasn’t always easy for her either – she didn’t always view herself as the scholar she is today, and sometimes she can’t help seeing a little of herself in the teens she counsels.

“I used to wonder how I would know how to become successful in life because I didn’t grow up around success. I first started college as a full-time student during August of 2005. I was afraid I would not be able to perform well in college due to the many barriers I had to overcome such as having a full-time job, being a first-generation student, and facing multiple financial hardships,” Patterson said.

But in 2006, 187 Phi Theta Kappa members were selected to receive Coca-Cola Two-Year College Scholarships of $1,000 each in recognition of their academic excellence and volunteer contributions, and Patterson, a computer science major at Harold Washington College in Chicago, Illinois, was among them.

She volunteers at a local charity, Deborah’s Place, at the National Food Depository, and for the National Runaway Switchboard as a Liner. “Liners” assist callers with identified needs such as filing abuse reports, finding shelter or making arrangements to return home.

“I found myself with some extra time and decided to fill it with something positive. I started looking through various programs to see what type of volunteer work I could get involved in.” Patterson said of her volunteer activities. “When I discovered the statistics on runaway youths I just felt that this is where I could help – as a crisis liner.”

She learned that every day between 1.3 and 2.8 million runaway and homeless youth live on the streets of America. One out of every seven children will run away from home before the age of 18. The mission at the National Runaway Switchboard (NRS) is to help keep America’s runaway and at-risk youth safe and off the streets.

“The most fulfilling part of working at NRS is leaving with that incredible feeling that, in some small way, maybe I was able to help someone in a time of crisis,” Patterson said. “My passion for this cause is strengthened when I close my eyes and think about a time in my life when I was scared, lonely and frightened. If I go back into those feelings and thoughts and really relive how they made me feel, I realize that this is exactly where every child who runs away is right before he or she leaves home. And I know that NRS is there to listen and help those kids every day of the year.”

Patterson said as a teen she was an average student in high school with questionable future plans. “I was more focused on what was popular rather than beneficial. There were so many things to get involved with and I didn’t get involved with really anything. When I decided to go back to college I told myself that I would no longer be passive, but take an active interest in everything I possibly could. I wanted more out of my college experience than just attending classes like most traditional-aged students,” she said. “That was one of the reasons I got involved with Phi Theta Kappa. Becoming involved with Phi Theta Kappa gave me the chance to experience different things and participate in leadership roles.”

Patterson was delighted to have that chance after originally being afraid she would not perform well in college due to the many barriers she had to overcome. “I currently work two jobs to support myself while attending school full time. So, my life involves juggling tasks and staying afloat,” she said. “At first glance people ask me how I manage. I have discovered that the more time I spend doing things the better I feel about myself. In the past I have had many idle times to enjoy. I would prefer not to work so much, but in the end I can see the career I’ve been reaching so hard for and I will continue to push toward that goal.”

“I know it sounds cliché but volunteering makes you feel like you’re giving something back. It is really easy to get so consumed by the details of your own personal daily life – especially in college – and then only experience the people and places within your college or work atmosphere,” Patterson said. “Through volunteer work, I have truly become a better person and plan to continue my commitment to public service for the rest of my life.”

“Not only did this scholarship alleviate some of my financial worries, but it also gave me a confidence boost. During the times I question my capability of finishing my degree I can now look back at this show of support and know that I can achieve anything.”

Patterson is well on her way. She has received a scholarship to Yale University, and will transfer there in the fall.

“Volunteering exposes me to groups and issues that I otherwise wouldn’t encounter on a daily basis. It’s a great way to keep things in perspective and know that the world is still out there and it doesn’t revolve around you.”

Aja Patterson
Coca-Cola Scholarship Recipient
JACK KENT COOKE FOUNDATION PROVIDES GENEROUS SCHOLARSHIPS TO COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS

- The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarship Program is the largest private scholarship initiative in the United States.
- A total of 158 undergraduate scholarships have been awarded since the program’s inception in 2002 – 100 to Phi Theta Kappa members.
- Phi Theta Kappa works in partnership with the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation to promote the scholarships awarded for the completion of baccalaureate studies, which are valued at up to $30,000 each.
- Thirty-two members of Phi Theta Kappa were among the 38 community college students chosen to receive the 2006 Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarships.
- Learn more at www.jackkentcookefoundation.org.
- Phi Theta Kappa Executive Director Rod A. Risley was appointed to the Community College Transfer Initiative Advisory Board in 2005. The eight-member board works with the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation to address the institutional challenges that well-qualified students from low-income backgrounds face as they pursue their dreams of higher education.

Viviana Alcazar is a recipient of a Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship that is helping her become the first generation college graduate in her family.

Crossing Borders: Jack Kent Cooke Scholar Discovers Life through Literature and Travel
Jack Kent Cooke Scholar and Phi Theta Kappa member Viviana Alcazar could be called a citizen of the world. She is a traveler in a very real sense – a native of Mexico, Alcazar is currently studying in the United States. She spent one summer in Perugia, Italy, studying Italian, and was enrolled for two quarters at Oxford University in England.

Her educational journeys have led her to discover literature, which she describes as her passion as well as her eventual vocation.

“I see my experiences abroad as interconnected to my passion for literature. I think this is the way these experiences have shaped my life,” Alcazar said.

Alcazar vividly recalls the time she read first the works of Irish poet and Nobel Prize-winner Seamus Heaney. She was a 20-year-old Mexican immigrant embarking on a study of English, new to the experience of literature and the pursuit of a higher education, enrolled in Cañada College in California.

Heaney’s poem Digging, a comparison of the ways his father's work with the soil and his own poetry both evoke the past, especially spoke to Alcazar.

“The three closing lines ‘Between my finger and my thumb/ The squat pen rests./ I'll dig with it’ created such a big impression on me,” she recalled.

“These three lines created an image that intimately and powerfully captured my experience and created a bridge between the poet’s experiences and my own.

“I, just like Heaney, represent the last generation, the closing link in a chain of ancestors dedicated to the work in the fields and the first link in a chain of people who will enjoy the privilege of pursuing an education,” said Alcazar, the first in her family to complete elementary school.

“I realized that regardless of time, place, gender, ethnic and cultural differences, I shared a common experience with Heaney. With these three lines, I started to discover the pleasure of studying literature in order to find the links that cross borders between, and illustrate the commonality, of human experience,” she said.

“At that point, I had crossed a physical border between Mexico and the United States. Now, by learning English and studying its literature, I was also crossing an intellectual border.”

“When I started at Cañada College, I was trying to become the first generation in my family to get an education,” Alcazar said. She knew that to succeed in college she would need to find mentors and role models.

“The professors at my community college created a very nurturing and encouraging academic environment for me that would help me to succeed, but also kept me motivated to continue with my dream of pursuing an education.”

Alcazar also found her involvement with Phi Theta Kappa to be a unique and rewarding experience.

“First, I found an organization that recognized, encouraged and celebrated my search for academic excellence. Phi Theta Kappa offered me the opportunity to be in an environment where scholarship was essential … an environment that embraced the exchange of ideas, and at the same time created a sense of fellowship among its members and also among other chapters around the area and around the country.”

When it came time to leave the shelter of the community college, Alcazar felt that her only options would be large public universities. She thought she lacked both the financial and academic resources to apply to the small liberal-arts colleges she would prefer.

Then her selection as a 2004 Jack Kent Cooke Scholar gave her new opportunities to continue her educational journey.

“The Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship became a turning point in my life and my experience in the United States,” Alcazar said.

Alcazar is now a senior at Stanford University in California, seeking a double major in English and Spanish literature. She is applying to Ph.D. programs in comparative literature. In the future she hopes to teach literature at a community college or a small liberal arts college.

“This is what these opportunities have given me and what I as a teacher hope to pass on to others.”
Nota Bene Scholarship Winner Enjoys a Second Chance at Academic Success

Phi Theta Kappa annually publishes a literary anthology, Nota Bene (Latin for “note well”), showcasing the writing of community college students. A $1,000 Citation Scholarship is presented to the best overall entry; other scholarships are also available.

“The Nota Bene Citation Scholarship was a heartfelt encouragement to ‘keep on keeping on,’ with education, with writing, and with other things which can bring value to others and myself.”

So says Dean Stewart, a member of Phi Theta Kappa at Santa Monica College in California and winner of the 2006 Citation Scholarship for his short story, “Pain,” published in Phi Theta Kappa’s literary anthology, Nota Bene. Stewart donated his $1,000 scholarship to the Santa Monica College Foundation to be used in their new theatre complex.

A returning adult student, Dean found academic success the second time around after a lackluster academic career in high school and later employment as an actor and an accountant. “My primary purpose for returning to school in my later years was to enhance my writing and life through a broader view of the world,” he said.

“When I first read the brochure on Phi Theta Kappa in the Santa Monica College Library three years ago, I wondered if I could qualify. It had never occurred to me that I might be an honor student until I checked my transcripts.” When the invitation came, Dean accepted.

“Phi Theta Kappa gave me more than I can ever give back. It was a wonderful accomplishment for me, especially because I was such a dud — just short of a juvenile delinquent — in high school. It was also nice to be involved with others who were serious about giving their best to their individual growth, and with terrific professors who served as advisors,” said Dean, also a member of other honor societies.

“When some of us are young high school graduates starting in college, we find that college is really hard — so we quit. We give up and search for an easier, softer way. It takes some of us longer than others to figure out the old axiom that you only get out what you put in,” Dean explained.

Dean’s early career plans focuses on acting. “At Pasadena High School I had the leads in the class plays in both my junior and senior years and definitely had my sights set on being an actor. I attended Pasadena City College for two semesters, did some more plays and thought I was ready. I worked professionally in several TV shows and one film and was admitted into Actors Studio by Lee Strasberg. But I wasn’t passionate enough and that career slipped away,” he said.

“After taking several accounting courses and business courses at UCLA Extension, I worked in the entertainment industry as an accountant, mostly processing residuals for actors, writers and directors. Although I am semi-retired, I still work for two different companies as a residuals accountant. I still enjoy acting from time to time and was in two plays while at Santa Monica College. It is great fun and hard work. I also love tennis. I am having the time of my life.”

Dean majored in Theatre Arts at Santa Monica College, where he received an associate of arts degree in 2006. He has since transferred to College of the Canyons in Redwood, California, and eventually hopes to earn a bachelor’s degree in English with an emphasis in creative writing.

“I would like very much to be a writer. I went through the Writing for Film and Television certificate program at UCLA Extension and have won some significant awards for my screenplays although none of them have been produced,” Dean said. “I am working on the twelfth draft of my first novel and have published two short stories and one poem. I have submitted my winning entry in the Nota Bene competition, ‘Pain,’ for other publications.”

Dean cites his decisions to return to school and accept membership Phi Theta Kappa and other honors organizations as turning points that led him to success. He says he has also learned, “to do whatever I do with as much heart and dedication as I can muster. Too often in my younger days, I did things halfheartedly.”
“Phi Theta Kappa gave me more than I could ever give back. … It was also nice to be involved with others who were serious about giving their best to their individual growth, and with terrific professors who served as advisors.”

Dean Stewart
2006 Citation Scholarship Winner

SUPPORT PHI THETA KAPPA LITERARY SCHOLARSHIPS

Nota Bene, Phi Theta Kappa’s honors anthology, was first published in 1994. The literary collection is published annually and circulated to more than 1,200 two-year college libraries around the world. This anthology is comprised of outstanding prose, poetry, and short story entries submitted by Phi Theta Kappa students and juried by a distinguished panel. Approximately 30 entries are included in the anthology each year. The author of the most outstanding submission is presented with the Citation Scholarship, an award of $1,000. Four manuscripts are chosen to receive Reynolds Scholarships, awards of $500 each.

For more information on how you can support this program, contact Director of Institutional Advancement Dr. Nancy Rieves at 1.800.946.9995, ext. 3537, or nancy.rieves@ptk.org.
ALUMNI INVITED TO CONTINUE PARTICIPATION IN PHI THETA KAPPA

Alumni are offered numerous opportunities to connect and give back to Phi Theta Kappa.

CONNECT

✦ Attend an International Convention and relive the excitement and experience of Phi Theta Kappa programs. Come back to serve as a forum presenter or connect with other alumni at the foundation booth and alumni banquet.

✦ Visit the online directory (http://www.ptk.org/alumni/al_dir.htm) to reconnect with past friends and meet new ones who share common interests.

✦ Join the International Alumni Association. Membership in the International Alumni Association of Phi Theta Kappa is awarded those alumni who provide financial support to the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation.

GIVE

✦ Serve alongside other alumni at a local or regional alumni association (http://www.ptk.org/alumni/al_intro.htm).

✦ Provide financial support to Phi Theta Kappa’s many scholarship programs or leave a legacy through an Alpha Courtyard brick donation.

For more information, contact the Alumni Office at 601.984.3577.

2006 Distinguished Alumna Navigates Course from Refugee to Pulitzer Prize-Winning Journalist

Phi Theta Kappa gave Mirta Ojito the confidence she needed to pursue a career as a journalist.
A bald man with a military bearing but dressed as a civilian was in charge of my file. In flawless Spanish he asked my name. Before I could tell him, though, he said I could choose any name I wanted. It didn’t have to be my real name.

“You are in America now,” he said. “You can forget the past and begin anew.”

I thought the man was joking, but his face remained serious, waiting for my response.

“Thank you,” I said, “but I’ll keep my name.”

I didn’t tell him that my name was all I had. My name and my memories.

Ojito, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author, accepted Phi Theta Kappa’s 2006 Distinguished Alumna Award during the Society’s International Convention in Seattle. The former New York Times reporter was nominated by her Phi Theta Kappa chapter at Miami-Dade College in Florida.

She spoke of her exodus to the United States from Cuba at the age of 16 as part of the Mariel boatlift, and the integral role that her own membership in Phi Theta Kappa played in the academic and personal successes that she experienced.

“This is such an honor, and reminds me how important Phi Theta Kappa and community colleges have been in my life,” Ojito said. “When I became a member of Phi Theta Kappa, you can’t imagine what it meant to me,” she said, recalling her challenges when she first came to the United States. “Twenty-six years ago I came to this country with nothing but hope,” she said. “Phi Theta Kappa and Miami-Dade College changed the life of this emigrant.”

Ojito said the recognition Phi Theta Kappa brought came at a time in her life when she needed it most. Language had been one of many barriers to her when she arrived in the United States and she tried to cope by reading.

“I read a lot – all the time, often with the help of a dictionary. That was an important goal – the only one I had when I came to the United States – to learn English as fast I could,” she said of her experience.

“The people who selected me to be in Phi Theta Kappa at Miami-Dade were the first people who realized I existed since I came from Cuba. I had a bad high school experience,” Ojito said. “Being invited to membership in Phi Theta Kappa was important to me on two levels – the recognition – that someone notices you, and the full scholarship made my education possible. It is incredibly important to be remembered by Phi Theta Kappa after so many years. It is thrilling and an honor.”

Ojito returned to Phi Theta Kappa’s 2007 International Convention, and served on the alumni panel that posed questions to keynote speaker Al Gore.

After Miami-Dade College she used her Phi Theta Kappa transfer scholarship to earn a baccalaureate degree from Florida Atlantic University and went on to receive a mid-career master’s degree from Columbia University.

In addition to winning a shared Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting in 2001 for a New York Times series of articles about race in America, Ojito also earned the American Society of Newspaper Editors’ Award for Best Foreign Reporting in 1999. Newsday selected Finding Mañana as one of its favorite books of 2005.

Her work has been included in several anthologies including To Mend the World: Women Reflect on 9/11 (White Pine Press, 2002), Written Into History: Pulitzer Prize Reporting of the Twentieth Century from The New York Times (Henry Holt and Co., 2001), By Heart/De Memoria (Temple University Press, 2003), and How Race is Lived in America (Times Books/Henry Holt and Co., 2001).

Ojito has taught journalism at New York University, Columbia University and the University of Miami. In January of 2006, she joined the full time faculty of the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University as a visiting professor. She continues to write for The New York Times from New York, where she lives with her husband, Arturo Villar, and their three boys.

“I have learned in my life first of all to follow my heart in terms of career, trust my instincts, and work very, very hard,” Ojito said. “Honestly, without really plotting a future, I said I am going to do the best possible job with what I have here, and that has propelled me forward.”
The Athena Society consists of individuals who have made a planned gift to Phi Theta Kappa. Planned gifts include bequests, trusts, life insurance and other deferred giving options that allow individuals to contribute to Phi Theta Kappa while making plans beneficial to their individual financial circumstances. The individuals listed here represent many, but not all of those who have chosen to contribute to the future of Phi Theta Kappa in this manner.

June Cordier
Laura Dupree
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Kathy Hayes
Nancy Rieves
Rod Risley
Billy Wilson

The Oak Leaf Society consists of donors who have chosen to endow Honors Institute and Faculty Scholar Conference Lectures, scholarships for members and advisors, and an endowment for Phi Theta Kappa operations - The Endowment for Excellence.

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We have made every effort to correctly identify all of our donors. If we have inadvertently omitted your name or made a mistake, please notify the Institutional Advancement Office at 1.800.946.9995, ext. 3577.
Phi Theta Kappa expresses gratitude for these gifts received in 2006 from our valued supporters. These donors have made an investment in the future of the Society, its programs and the members and advisors. We graciously thank them for their continued support by investing in Phi Theta Kappa.
**Scholarships**

**Named Scholarships**
Donors may establish a scholarship in their names or in the name of one they wish to honor. Phi Theta Kappa recognizes individuals, families, foundations, companies, and organizations providing funds for merit or need-based scholarships to defray costs of pursuing associate, bachelor’s, and graduate degree programs at regionally or governmentally accredited institutions. Donors may make an annual gift each year to fund the scholarship or may establish an endowment for funding the scholarship permanently.

- **Minimum amount required:** $25,000 to establish named scholarship endowment (may be paid over time) OR $1,000 given each year to award a scholarship
- **Need:** Unlimited

**Guistwhite Scholarships**
This merit-based program provides outstanding Phi Theta Kappa members funding for completing baccalaureate degree programs. Guistwhite Scholars receive $5,000 each, ($1,250 per term) to defray costs of completing a baccalaureate degree.

- **Minimum amount required:** $100,000 endowment (may be paid over time) OR $5,000 given each year to award a scholarship
- **Need:** Unlimited

**Leaders of Promise Scholarships**
The Leaders of Promise Scholarship Program encourages new member participation in Society programs by defraying costs of completing an associate degree program. Scholarships of $1,000 each are awarded based on applications. Recipients receive an initial $500 disbursement and must complete a series of leadership activities in order to receive the second disbursement.

- **Minimum amount required:** $25,000 endowment (may be paid over time) OR $1,000 given each year to award a scholarship
- **Need:** Unlimited

**Mosal Awards**
Chapter advisors with at least three years of service are invited to apply for Mosal Awards, named for the Society’s longtime Executive Director, the late Dr. Margaret Mosal. Recipients are selected on the basis of their past professional accomplishments unrelated to Phi Theta Kappa duties, and their proposed projects for continuing professional development. Mosal Awards carry stipends of $5,000 each. Contributions made to Mosal Awards assist Phi Theta Kappa and two-year colleges in retaining outstanding two-year college faculty and administrators serving as chapter advisors.

- **Minimum amount required:** $100,000 endowment (may be paid over time) OR $5,000 given each year to offer an award
- **Need:** Unlimited

**Nota Bene**
*Nota Bene,* first published in 1994, is Phi Theta Kappa’s literary honors anthology, circulated annually to more than 1,200 two-year college libraries around the world. *Nota Bene* includes outstanding prose, poetry, and short story entries submitted by Phi Theta Kappa members and juried by a distinguished panel. Approximately 30 entries are included in each anthology.

- **Minimum amount required:** $25,000 endowment (may be paid over time) OR $1,000 given each year to present an author award

**International Officers**
Five students are elected each year to serve as the Society’s International Officers. These students participate in a rigorous development program, preparing speeches, completing tests, and developing presentations on Society programs. They travel extensively, representing the organization at various Society programs and educational conferences. The officers each receive scholarships of $2,000 for continued education, after the successful completion of their terms in office.

- **Minimum amount required:** $100,000 endowment (may be paid over time) OR $5,000 given each year for five $1,000 supplements

The stories in this issue illustrate that Phi Theta Kappa plays a vital role in the lives of extraordinary students. The generosity of philanthropic partners, who support the Society’s mission through outright gifts, sponsorships and in-kind donations, help make this possible. Your investment enables Phi Theta Kappa to expand programs and offer more scholarships, attract talented speakers and enhance leadership opportunities. Your gift, whether unrestricted or specifically designated to an area you desire to support, can make a positive impact on programs and students. Gifts may be given annually and/or by establishing an endowment. Endowments provide permanent funding in which the gift is invested and only the earnings support the scholarship or award specified. You can actively participate in creating a better future for deserving Phi Theta Kappa students in a number of ways:
Programs

Faculty Scholars
Each year, 25 Phi Theta Kappa advisors are chosen by application to be Faculty Scholars. They participate in an academic conference held at the Center for Excellence and led by internationally recognized scholars who address Phi Theta Kappa’s Honors Study Topic. Following advanced readings, Faculty Scholars discuss and debate the many issues related to the topic as they prepare for their role as seminar leaders at the summer Honors Institute. All Faculty Scholars’ travel and tuition expenses to the Conference and Honors Institute are paid by Phi Theta Kappa.

Minimum amount required: $50,000 endowment per Faculty Scholar Position (may be paid over time) OR $2,500 given each year to fund a Faculty Scholar position

Honors Institute Scholarships
Phi Theta Kappa’s Honors Institute is often cited as the Society’s crown jewel in terms of honors programming. Since 1968, the Honors Institute has provided approximately 375 students an intensive exploration of the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Study Topic. The weeklong program, held on the campus of a four-year college, introduces student members and advisors to the multidisciplinary examination of timely topics outside their current fields of study. Participants hear and react to presentations by acclaimed experts on various aspects of the Honors Study Topic. Tuition is charged for room, board, and program costs.

Minimum amount required: $25,000 endowment for an Institute Scholarship (may be paid over time) OR $1,000 given each year to fund an Institute scholarship

International Convention
Each year, Phi Theta Kappa’s International Convention attracts nearly 4,000 members, alumni, chapter advisors and college presidents. The Convention program includes such internationally known speakers as former Vice President Al Gore, former New York City Mayor Rudy Guiliani, news pundit Cokie Roberts and entertainer Trisha Yearwood. Educational forums, college and career fairs, and candidate campaigns provide attendees an instructive and inspiring experience. Preceding the Convention are chapter and regional officer academies and chapter advisor pre-conferences. Attendees pay registration fees to participate in the academies and general Convention activities. Attending the Convention helps attendees grasp an understanding of Phi Theta Kappa programs and serves as a springboard for engaging in programs the next year.

Minimum amount required: $5,000 to endow a Convention registration (may be paid over time) OR $250 given each year to fund a Convention Registration

Other

Greatest Need
Numerous aspects contribute to creating the Phi Theta Kappa of today. Your donation to help meet other needs tremendously assists Phi Theta Kappa in supporting the Society goals.

Minimum amount required: No minimum required

Local Chapters and Regions
All Phi Theta Kappa chapters have projects that require funds. If your interests lie in providing financial assistance to a chapter or region, Phi Theta Kappa will manage the funds and distribute as directed by donor.

Minimum amount required: No minimum required

Giving with IRA Distributions
According to a new law, individuals age 70½ or older are allowed to make tax-free distributions of up to $100,000 in 2007 from their Individual Retirement Accounts to tax-exempt charity.

How does this work? When an individual reaches age 70½, he or she is generally required to receive distributions from his or her IRA. Typically the distribution is taxed as income when money is withdrawn from an IRA. If IRA distributions are made to a charity, the distributions will receive the same treatment as distributions to the taxpayer, but instead, no taxes are incurred.

How do I make an IRA gift? IRAs are usually held by a financial institution or trust company. A form is typically provided by these institutions that could be used to transfer the IRA funds directly to charity, with no tax incurred.

Why should I consider this? These contributions allow individuals to make gifts tax-free in support of Phi Theta Kappa. See this page and the preceding pages for more information on giving to specific areas of Phi Theta Kappa.


Is there any chance the law will change? As of this writing, a bill is being introduced into Congress, The Public Good IRA Rollover Act of 2007, which would be permanent, would remove the $100,000 annual limit on donations, and would provide IRA owners with a planned giving option starting at age 59½.

Consider taking advantage of this offering and consider Phi Theta Kappa as your charity.

Phi Theta Kappa does not provide tax advice. Since some IRA transfers do not count as qualified distributions, please consult a tax professional in regard to your specific circumstances.

Bequests and Deferred Gifts
Phi Theta Kappa welcomes bequests and other deferred gifts, which are meaningful ways to create a legacy for future generations. A bequest or deferred gift may be made through a provision in an estate plan naming Phi Theta Kappa as beneficiary. For further information please contact Director of Institutional Advancement Dr. Nancy Rieves at 1.800.945.9996, ext. 3537, or nancy.rieves@ptk.org.
In Phi Theta Kappa, we share a passion for excellence in order to become better. Just as one spends a lifetime searching for the meaning of life through the pursuit of truths, the quest for excellence is a pursuit that knows no final destination. Value is found in the journey itself.

Rod A. Risley
Executive Director
Phi Theta Kappa