National Student Representative
Jared Schelp
Zeta Eta Chapter—Kansas State University

Greetings again! I hope all of you are off to another great semester and ready for spring break or maybe even graduation for those student teaching this semester. Just keep working hard and the semester will be over as before you know it. I would say I am sure everyone is ready for spring, which may be true, but this is the nicest national winter weather we have had in a long time. Some of you may have had snow dumped on you a few times, but for the most part it has been a non-hazardous winter.

The Annual NBEA Convention is being held in Boston on April 3-7. The convention is arranged as a time for professionals and students to network and learn from other professionals. On Thursday, April 5, members of Pi Omega Pi will have an annual social night full of fun, networking, and as the title says, socialize. This is a time for members to get to know each other and share ideas from each other for use in the classroom. After our social, all students will go out to eat at a local restaurant in the area. Be sure to attend the breakout sessions for some great learning experiences and tools to use in the future whether you are currently a teacher or a student. On Saturday, the last day of the conference, we will gather for the closing session for our last time together at the convention. Again, I hope to see you all there and at the breakout sessions, as this is a good time to get to know one another.

Last thing; remember to "like" Pi Omega Pi on Facebook and follow what is going on from other national chapters. I will be posting information regarding the upcoming convention and encourage all other members to post convention plans on Facebook. We would like input from everyone as we plan for this year's convention. So please add your suggestions when appropriate. Facebook is a great tool for chapters to share their ideas with everyone else across the nation. We are each other's best resources, so let's help each other out to be the greatest honor society we can be. I know the experience you will gain at the convention will be very beneficial. I hope to see all of you in Boston in April.

Jared

President's Report
Connie Forde
Alpha Pi Chapter - Mississippi State University

I hope each of you are having a wonderful new year! A new year means a new beginning in Pi Omega Pi. What a wonderful time to recruit new members and experience the excitement of starting a new competition year. Each chapter has the potential to make a great impact with the Pi Omega Pi service projects that you choose.

I hope each chapter is planning to attend the annual NBEA Convention in Boston on April 3-7. Jared, your national student representative, and Dr. Wallace, our president elect, have planned an excellent program for the Thursday afternoon social and meeting. I hope you will come to this meeting prepared to share your excellent activities with the members in attendance.

As I presented in the December newsletter, the advisers and National Council have agreed that our chapters would accept Stop Hungry Now a service project for Pi Omega Pi. Stop Hunger Now is an international hunger relief agency that distributes food to children in countries all over the years. Most often the food is served at schools and orphanages. I hope your chapters is discussing ways to raise money for this worthwhile project. Our plan is to raise the $2,500 required to distribute 10,000 meals. If we can raise money for the 10,000 meals, we will be able to pack the meals as part of our social event for the 43rd Biennial Convention in New Orleans next spring. Please post your ideas on Facebook so that all of us can gain from your experience. More information is on page 4 of this newsletter.

Please remember that Pi Omega Pi will award another scholarship for this competition year. Please read the information about the scholarship on page 2 and submit your application, resume, and letter of recommendation from your adviser by the May 15 deadline. The information is also on our website at www.piomegapi.org.

National Council 2011-2013

President
   Dr. Connie M. Forde
   Mississippi State University
   Box 9730
   Mississippi State, MS 39762
   662-325-7528
   Fax: 662-325-1837
   cforde@colled.msstate.edu

President-elect & Webmaster
   Dr. Ivan Wallace, Chair
   East Carolina University
   Bate 2318A, Mailstop 519
   Greeneville, NC 27858
   252-328-6983
   Fax: 252-328-6535

Secretary-Treasurer
   Mrs. Darla Stone
   Kansas State University
   Bluemont Hall 356
   Manhattan, KS 66506
   785-532-5515
   Fax: 785-532-7304
   djstone@ksu.edu

Student Representative
   Mr. Jared Schelp
   Kansas State University
   Manhattan, KS 66506
   jschelp@ksu.edu

Here and There

Here and There is the official newsletter of Pi Omega Pi, the national honor society in business teacher education. It is published four times each competition year: February, April, October, and December. Submit articles and activities report to Dr. Connie Forde, Mississippi State University, 662-325-7258 or message at CForde@colled.msstate.edu.

Guidelines for Submission of Articles

The following guidelines should be followed when preparing articles for submission to the *Here and There*.

- Include a concise, comprehensive article title.
- Check for correct grammar and punctuation.
- Avoid the use of contractions.
- At a minimum, include one reference.
- Follow the APA (fifth edition) formatting and writing style. A minimum word length of 300 words and a maximum word length of 750 words are required.

Pi Omega Pi Scholarship

Requirements:
- You must be a US Citizen or eligible non-citizen under state residency statutes.
- You must be a member of Pi Omega Pi.
- You must be student teaching within one year of the scholarship award. You must be student teaching in the semester when the scholarship is paid. Pi Omega Pi adviser must verify that you are enrolled in student teaching. Failing to begin student teaching within one year after the award constitutes grounds for revocation of the scholarship unless extenuating circumstances are presented.
- You must be a full-time student in a graduate or undergraduate degree-granting program for at least two semesters prior to student teaching.

Terms of Eligibility: This $1,000 scholarship may be awarded only once to any individual. However, the scholarship may be awarded to more than one individual; therefore, each individual would receive $500.

Award Disbursement: This scholarship is paid upon completing the first day of student teaching.
Application Instructions:

Please submit the application form, a resume, and one letter of recommendation. The recommendation letter must be from your chapter advisor, and it must address your passion for business education and how active/committed you are to Pi Omega Pi.

Contact Information for Submitting: Dr. Connie M. Forde, President, Pi Omega Pi National Council, Mississippi State University, P. O. Box 9730, Mississippi State, MS 39762. 662-325-7258 office or 662-312-0722 cell or e-mail cforde@colled.msstate.edu

Deadline: May 15, 2012

Chapter Activities

Beta Chapter
Northwest Missouri State University

Beta Chapter at Northwest Missouri State University held a planning meeting the last Thursday in January. We discussed when we will hold the spring semester "eat and greet" for prospective new members. During that meeting we also discussed the 2011 reports and decided which members would help prepare each report to be sent off to Nationals by the first of February. In addition to the reports and scheduling a time to meet potential new members, we discussed the FBLA contests that will be held on our campus in March and set up who would help judge them. We also discussed the online FBLA contest that we will also help grade and set deadlines for when we will wrap up that process.

Beta Kappa Chapter
East Carolina University

Beta Kappa Chapter has had a great start to this new year. They have been actively planning under the leadership of James Michael Miller and have had the opportunity to take the chapter digital. The chapter began using technologies such as Doodle and Big Marker to schedule and conduct meetings through video conferencing. This has allowed members from across the state to now be involved. It has driven the chapter to a better awareness of how we can all be active, especially when many of the members are doing their senior internships.

In February Beta Kappa Chapter looks forward to attending the Atlantic Coast Business and Marketing Information Technology Education Conference in Raleigh, which the Department of Business and Information Technologies Education hosts. This conference provides teachers and educators from across the state with professional development in technologies, teaching strategies, and content material that that can be integrated into the classroom. During the conference, Beta Kappans run the registration table and serve as presiders for sessions to assist with the conference for the Department of Business and Information Technologies Education at ECU.

Alpha Pi
Mississippi State University

Alpha Pi Chapter is excited about all the new and upcoming events for the spring semester. They are currently working on two spring fundraisers. One that includes departmental t-shirts for all programs in the Department of Instructional Systems and Workforce Development as well as a Professional Administration Day fundraiser that includes a flower sale. Three of our members are doing their student teaching in local schools and Alpha Pi congratulates them on this wonderful milestone.

The chapter inducted two new members on February 1. The chapter is discussing the NBEA Convention and how many members will be able to represent the Alpha Pi Chapter.

Zeta Eta Chapter
Kansas State University

Zeta Eta members have been working on finishing the National Projects for the 2011 Pi Omega Pi Competition. This year, we did something really different and mailed the project reports to the judging chapter two days before the deadline. Normal for us is to wait and race to the Post Office just barely in time to get the February 1 date stamped on the package to meet the deadline. Finishing the competition year with reports marks the beginning of the new competition year in Pi Omega Pi as the spring semester gets started. Coming up with ideas for projects is always a challenge. It seems that in some years a project falls into our laps with little effort and other years, members have to dig for a project.

In October, the chapter initiated five new members. Five members attended the Kansas Business Education Association Conference in Wichita to lead a panel discussion about what college students need to learn in high school. One member, with the assistance of the others, presented a hands-on workshop at KBEA demonstrating how to create a Prezi presentation. Members closed the fall semester with a year-end party.

During the fall, the chapter worked on raising funds in preparation for the trip to the NBEA Conference in Boston. The quarter-zip sweatshirts were a big hit and provided part of the funds needed for travel. Eleven members are planning to travel to Boston. Flights are booked, hotel registrations are made, and conference registration is in the works. Boston, here we come! Zeta Eta hopes to see representatives from all the chapters at the NBEA conference.

Alpha Chi Chapter
Eastern Illinois University

The Spring 2012 semester started on January 9, 2012. I became president of Pi Omega Pi at the beginning of this semester. Pi Omega Pi's first meeting was on January 17, 2012. We discussed several local and national projects that for completing during this semester. The low membership this semester is due to minimal students in the business education program. We are waiting to see if there are any more eligible students that will be able to join Pi Omega Pi. Within the next couple of weeks we will be able to tell if there will be any additional students that will interested in joining Pi Omega Pi.

Alpha Beta Chapter
University of Eastern Kentucky

Recently the Alpha Beta Chapter has appointed a member as president and has also inducted a new member as well. We are excited to see the new activities the new officers will initiate for our chapter of Pi Omega Pi. With the induction of the new member, we are also looking forward to the fresh perspective she will bring to our chapter.

At our first meeting we initiated our new member and discussed the local, community, and national projects. All of our members came up with great ideas to fulfill these projects. We have one member beginning their student teaching process while others start their journey towards learning the worlds of business and education. We are all looking forward to doing great things with Pi Omega Pi within this new year.

ALL CHAPTER PROJECT
for
2013
BIENNIAL CONVENTION

What: Stop Hunger Now

What is Stop Hunger Now: Stop Hunger Now is an international hunger relief agency that has been fulfilling its commitment to end hunger for more than 12 years. Since 1998, the organization has coordinated the distribution of food and other lifesaving aid to children and families in countries all over the world.

Where: 43rd Biennial Pi Omega Pi Convention in Atlanta, Georgia

How: Raise at least $2,500 as a Pi Omega Pi National Honor Society to be able to distribute 10,000 meals.

What can I do: If all 22 chapters of Pi Omega Pi National Honor Society participate, each chapter would need to raise just $115.00. If only half of the Pi Omega Pi Chapters participated, each chapter would need to raise $228.

What does my money pay for: Each meal (packet) for the Stop Hunger Now can be made with just 25 cents. These packets include rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables, and a flavoring mix include 21 essential vitamins. These packets have a self-life of five years.

Who does my packet go to: Packets will be distributed to schools and orphanages located in a third-world country.

How is providing food aid to developing countries sustainable? Addressing hunger is a key strategy to increasing education rates and providing a way out of poverty in developing countries. Providing meals in schools increases enrollment. As education levels rise, birth rates and disease rates fall, and communities begin to sustain themselves. The food resources needed to eradicate life-threatening malnutrition are sustainable and hunger experts agree that school feeding programs are the most effective tool for increasing access to education and improving the nutritional status of children.

Additional Information:

http://www.stophungernow.org/site/PageServer

http://www.stophungernow.org/site/DocServer/Frequently_Asked_Questions.pdf?docID=2021

Member Articles

James Michael Miller
Beta Kappa Chapter
Eastern Carolina University

Second Life, An Innovative Classroom Tool

Second Life is a "3-D virtual world created by residents that live in it" (Hodge, Collins, & Giordano, 2011, p. 1). Second Life is more than just a 3-D world; it is a wonderland of possibilities where people go to "escape" from the "real world" and go to relax, meet new people, and the most important is learn about new things. Second Life is an amazing platform that should be used in the school and classroom.

Today more than ever, technology has come to be a very active and important part of education. Whether teachers use a smartboard, projector, computer, or the network grading system, we are all using technology in our classrooms. So, why do we not use a virtual world where students can learn in any environment that teachers can create?

Most students find technology to be interesting. There is an increase in their levels of engagement in a topic utilizing technology and with the increased engagement students will be more likely to retain information that is being taught (Brna & Cooper, 2002). This information says it all, especially why schools should implement Second Life into the classroom and into the school. If students enjoy learning with technology, then why not develop an entire curriculum or many different subjects around a virtual or technological classroom. For instance, one very important topic that could really benefit from the use of Second Life in the classroom would be physics. In physics you use different variables to see the reaction on different objects. In Second Life students would be able to create such reactions and see just how many different variables can cause many different reactions. In Second Life students would be able to manipulate gravity, air speed, velocity, density, and even the surface area. This would bring many different aspects to education and to the commitment to student knowledge. This type of project would make learning fun for students and make the material easier for the students to remember in the future (Bartie, 2004).

Creating, using and developing objects, buildings, and land in Second Life can allow for students to network with other students from around the world or in other classrooms. Too often students go to class and do not get to know many of the other students in other classes. Using Second Life, students can work with other students to accomplish real world tasks that they might not be able to do in the real world. Second Life allows students to have that social interaction that many students would not be able to have through working with cooperative schools from different countries, states, or towns. Imagine students from rival schools working together to create a virtual school for all students.

Second Life is not limited to just the classroom. Today there are many students that have the "homebound" classification in public schools. Being classified as homebound is classified as receiving your public instruction from the home, due to illness, pregnancy, or other issues. Homebound students have a certified teacher travel to their home to teach them the material that they would be missing in the classroom. So how can we solve this issue? Not allow any students to be homebound classified? Probably not, instead the school systems or schools themselves could create Second Life online school to allow these students to receive the same instruction as the other students that are in the classroom. Teachers would logon, at a specific time, and teach the students the required material that they had taught during the day. This would allow for one-on-one instruction and allow the homebound students to receive the instruction that they should be receiving. What benefits would this have the schools, some would ask? Well, instead of paying one teacher to travel to five or six different homes in a day and having to pay the gas bill that would correspond with the travel, a school or school system could simply pay a minor monthly fee for a Second Life Island and have the teachers, that the school system is already paying, to teach the student or students online.

Many teachers would have concerns about assessments and their students taking tests. These teachers are in luck. Second Life can be compatible with an online learning management platform called Moodle. The best part about Moodle is that it is free. Second Life can be combined with Moodle through the use of SLOODLE tools. Sloodle stands for Simulation Linked Object Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment (Bloomfield). SLOODLE offers many different tools for teachers or anyone to use in Second Life. SLOODLE offers a quiz tool, presenter, toolbar, choice tool (used to vote

Continued from page 5

on topics), registration booth (for students to link their middle accounts with Second Life), and the most important a presenter (Bloomfield). All of these tools allow for easy convergence from an online platform to a virtual world. Teachers can grade assignments, give quizzes, and take polls all while seeing their student's avatars.

There are an unlimited amount of advantages that can be used to help students learn and to make learning fun. The final advantage that we are going to learn about today is that Second Life offers many students, schools, and teachers access to resources that they would not have had in the regular classroom. Imagine if you were a theater teacher, and you could have an unlimited amount of costumes, props, and other resources. Then imagine that you could put on a play at almost any time or at the drop of a hat. This is exactly what Second Life can offer teachers. There are many schools in the United States that do not have the appropriate funds or ability to have access to many different resources in classroom. Second Life solves this problem. In Second Life teachers can create an unlimited about of resources that they could use in their virtual classroom. The only thing that limits the amount of resources that you can have in Second Life is your imagination. Users, teachers, and students can create anything that their mind can come up with.

Currently there are many schools that have already experience the joy of having Second Life in the classroom and not to mention the virtual schools that are already in place for students to learn and develop new skills. Second Life provides students will access to college course and many other resources.

To close, Second Life is more than just an online environment. It is a living, thriving, three dimensional world where students can go to learn, experience new things and work with many people around the world. Second Life can be used to assist teachers in engaging students in the material that they are teaching. Second Life provides new opportunities for students to learn and experience real world methods and experiments that they would not be able to in the real world. Most of all Second Life is an excellent platform for both teachers and students to get to know each other and to learn together.
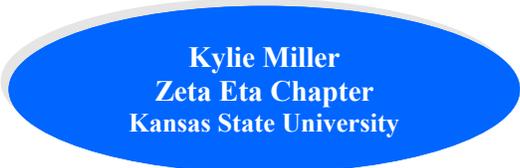
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Diversity in Economic Class

Kylie Miller
Zeta Eta Chapter
Kansas State University

Schools reflect our community and our nation. Our nation is very diverse, and this has an impact on our schools. When we consider diversity, our thoughts automatically move to racial, ethnic, or cultural diversity. There are other forms of diversity that are often overlooked, such as economic diversity. Economic class has a tremendous impact on our perspective and how much we are exposed to in the course of growing up. Poor children are often defined almost exclusively by money. Actually, poverty is about access, or lack of access..." to money. "Schools can be much more successful if they know the resources of students, then base interventions on the available resources" (Payne, 2009).

Continued from page 6

As educators, we need to be aware of the implications of economic class. We need to reflect upon our own heritage and realize we have biases based upon our own background. This gives us a different perspective on how we view everything and how we handle our everyday lives. A former socio-economic status may still impact people's behavior today. For example, someone who struggled to pay bills while growing up may still search out the clearance rack first. Someone who grew up in a middle or upper income family may be uncomfortable buying items at a consignment store. (Scheffert, 2009).

This is a huge factor and it is important that teachers be aware of the issue. The Kids Count Data Center reported that in our state of Kansas 47 percent of the students are on free or reduced lunches (Kids Count Data Center, 2009). This number is astonishing and represents rural areas as well as large cities. The Kansas State University Zeta Eta chapter of Pi Omega Pi has recently delved into this topic, and we have found a lot of information that has opened our eyes and can be used to help teachers in the classroom.

Teachers need to recognize this issue because it affects students in an enormous way, for example, when they don't have access to supplies they might need in class or they come to school hungry. What about the teacher assigning homework that the student has to do at home on a computer and the student does not have a computer to work on at home? Is this a fair assignment? We as educators need to be aware of these things. Understanding what economic class a child comes from can greatly help us all become more effective teachers.

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National Pi Omega Pi Facebook Page

Check out the Pi Omega Pi Facebook page. Post your chapter pictures and share ideas for fundraising and for your local, community, national, and publication projects.

Are Your Files "In the Cloud?" – Use Dropbox.com

Lisa Perkins
Beta Chapter
Northwest Missouri State

Have you ever been somewhere and found out that you forgot a file you needed? Have you ever wished you could work on a project from any computer or your cell phone? Have you ever wanted to work away from home, but felt like it was too much of a hassle to carry around a laptop, a thumb drive, or an external hard drive? Well those problems are solved!   Dropbox.com is an application that one can use to access files from any computer with an Internet connection—and it's free!

Dropbox.com is "a free service that lets you bring all your photos, docs and videos anywhere" (Dropbox , 2012). A major advantage to Dropbox.com is that one can upload a file to the Dropbox.com account and access it from anywhere. With Dropbox.com installed on more than one computer and one's cellphone, any time a file is changed in Dropbox.com or a file is uploaded, there is a seamless access to those files from any device. With 2GB space provided with the free account, there is room for many files. Need more space? Get free bonus storage by inviting your friends to use Dropbox.com, or you can purchase more space.

Need space for team work? Dropbox.com now has Dropbox for Teams.
Perhaps the greatest advantage to Dropbox.com is how easy it is to use. Dropbox.com works with Windows, Mac, Linux, iPad, iPhone, Android, and Blackberry, and one can even access files offline. To begin using Dropbox.com, simply go to www.dropbox.com, click download, and follow the steps. After you download Dropbox, create an account and upload your files. It's that easy!

Users of Dropbox.com can restore deleted files. Simply click on the tab that says "Show Deleted Files" on the Dropbox.com Web site, and files can be restored. When files are changed on Dropbox.com, those files will be changed wherever the Dropbox folder has been downloaded—computers and phones alike.

Need to share a file? Other users can be invited to share the contents of a folder on Dropbox.com, making it easy to work on projects. Can't find the file you're looking for? Just use the easy search option on Dropbox.com. Not sure what file was changed last? Click the Events tab on Dropbox to see what has been completed in a Dropbox.com account. Have a computer break down making it impossible to access anything on it? No problem! You can use another computer and go to www.dropbox.com and access everything saved.

Dropbox.com has been a lifesaver for me. I don't need to worry about the location of my files or how to access those files. As long as I have access to a computer and the Internet, I can access my files, share them, and delete/store them whenever I need to!

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Chelsea Shoemaker
Alpha Beta Chapter
Eastern Kentucky University

Soft Skills Provide a Competitive Edge

Throughout every business and professional course I have ever taken there has been few lessons and messages visited in each class. In fact, throughout our lives, there have been messages about characteristics and qualities that we were consistently reminded of. Many teachers and adults were making sure that we would know just how important these qualities were to our futures. Credentials and experiences are definite requirements by most businesses today, but there are also other skills that companies would like for potential hires to have as compliments (Lorenz, 2010). These personal qualities that teachers have lectured on described habits, skills, and attitudes that employers look for when hiring people. These skills are known the world of business as soft skills—and these skills can make the deal or break it.

As today's employers search for new hires, they are looking for specific qualifications that potential employees must embody. These are the skills and behaviors that many job seekers tend to overlook, but are in high demand by employers. Companies are increasing their demand for employees to have soft skills to complement their education and experiences. Some of these qualities include communication and problem-solving skills that are keys for success in any area of business. A person must be able to communicate and listen not only within a company, but with customers and other businesses in order for bridges to be built for strong business relationships. Problems arise within a company, but it is those who are creative and able to utilize the resources available to them that employers seek in current job market. Keen problem-solving strategies and communication skills by the individuals that make up the teams of each department of a business are part of the top skills that employers are demanding of new hires.

Following suit of the new trends of employability skills, employers are becoming more particular as to what personalities they choose to hire. As a child I remember being told that having the right attitude would make the difference in getting the job or not. According to recent research this lesson remains to be true, attitude is the top predictor for a new hire's success or failure at a job (Schawbel, 2012). An attitude can encompass so many qualities such as trustworthiness, self-motivation, and self-confidence that result in an overall positive attitude. The ability to work within a team, to take and give criticism, and handle defeat are other aspects of one's attitude that presents qualities in which an employer can find a hire for a job position.

Skills and attitude are not the only qualities today's employers are searching the labor market for—beneficial habits are also in high demand. Another element of soft skills is the virtuous habits that we as job seekers utilize to provide the whole package for employers. A person's respectable work ethic, time management abilities, and adaptability describe the ideal habits of a potentially successful hire for a company. To exemplify these characteristics, one must be organized and motivated to consistently work extremely hard towards a common goal for a common good.

These soft skills are the qualities that we have all been reminded of as we grow and learn. From the first discussion of having the "right attitude for success" to the employability skills that today's employers' demand, these skills have remained constant. Today's workforce must personify these attitudes, habits and skills in order to score the job we seek over tons of other applicant. Since the job market is a battlefield, we must present ourselves and showcase the skills that employers are tending to desire more in current times. The soft skills are our competitive edge over others as long as we utilize these often over-looked qualities to advertise and sell our qualifications and experience in order to get the job.

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Gifted Students

Scott Suback
Psi Chapter
University of Wisconsin

This article primarily focused on strategies that parents and educators should utilize when guiding and instructing students that have been identified as gifted. The majority of the gifted and talented population has traditionally had a difficult time fitting in with peers and being challenged academically in schools. These difficulties have caused many students to fail in regards to reaching their vast academic and social potentials. The author of this article, Heidi Stevens, believes that parents have been relying far too long on programs for gifted students in each school system and need to take the initiative in making learning relevant for their child again.

Stevens suggest that a major misconception in the instruction of gifted students is to simply overload them with work. She believes that an increase in work that they already find to be mind numbingly simple and useless is not the key to unlocking the students' full potential. Instead, she recommends that parents and teachers determine what students are genuinely interested in and teach that subject matter to the students. Most interests and hobbies have real-world applications that can encompass other learning disciplines such as science, technology, English, and mathematics.

However, she also makes the point that a teacher should try his or her best to ensure that a gifted student is not overly emphasized in the context of his or her classroom. These students must not only grow academically but socially as well. Announcing to the entire classroom that a particular student is above the cognitive abilities of others may result in bullying and exclusion of the gifted student.

I believe that the article touched on many key points, such as putting additional responsibility for teaching/learning on the parents of the students. Too many scenarios exist in which parents demand extraordinary investments of time and effort from their child's educators but are not actively involved in the learning process themselves. The education process of any student needs to be a two-way street in which teachers and parents can collaborate on the best course of action to take in regard to educating gifted students. The article also suggests that teachers refrain from giving gifted and talented students busy work, simply because they finish their work quicker than other students. At first I felt that this notion was fairly obvious but then I realized that in the mad rush to get other students caught up on the day's lesson, teachers often tell students who are ahead of others to work on the next item or pull out a book to read. This article has made me realize that other options for these students should be explored in order to keep them engaged. I would honestly have them work on an interesting, culminating project rather than acing a summative assessment at the end of the week's lesson. However, explaining this differentiation to other students who are not gifted could be difficult, which may result in some concerns from those gifted students and possibly their parents. This difficulty, however, may be well worth the effort to undertake.

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Master of Teaching Economics (MTE)

Kimberly Boyer
Alpha Pi Chapter
Mississippi State University

The Mississippi Department of Education has offered quite a unique situation for business education majors at Mississippi State University. The Master of Teaching Economics Certification Program (MTE) has been offered previous years for those teachers who have already began service in the world of education; however, this year business education majors at Mississippi State were invited to complete the program as enrolled students.

Through the MTE program offered by the State Department of Education, future and current teachers are allowed to gain certification to teach economics in their courses. Currently the State of Mississippi requires all students to obtain a half credit in economics to meet high graduation requirements. Through this program, teachers can gain the knowledge and ability to teach this program.

The program features five modules with a pretest and posttest to test previous knowledge as well as knowledge gained throughout the program. The modules include; Fundamentals of Economics, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, International Business, and Personal Finance. Fundamentals of Economics assessed previous knowledge of students and an overall feeling of economics in the world. Macroeconomics and microeconomics tended to be an overall review for a majority of the students enrolled in the MTE program as these two classes are part of the business education curriculum. International business offered many opportunities for students enrolled in the program to learn about the purpose the United States serves in trade and the value of exports and imports as well as currency in our world. Personal finance was the favorite of all the modules for those enrolled in this program. Personal finance offered the importance of credit cards and the debit ration in the United States.

In addition to passing the five modules, our business education majors were required to attend two full-day workshops hosted by the Mississippi Council on Economic Education. They are currently teaching four lessons in the local schools and will be trading with the students as they place the Stock Market Game or Financial Literacy Game. Upon completion of these requirements, the business education majors will be licensed to teach economics in Mississippi.

Promotional Resources

The Foundation for the Future of Business Education hosts an excellent website (ffbe.org) that contains numerous outstanding resources to promote business education.

Promotional Strategies
http://ffbe.org/Promotional.html

Resources
http://ffbe.org/Resources.html

Pi Omega Pi Resources

Visit the National Pi Omega Pi website at www.piomega.pi.org to find many valuable resources for Pi Omega Pi.

Jewelry

Pi Omega Pi Store

Honor Cords

Handbooks

NBEA 2012 Convention Registration is Open

Register now to attend the NBEA 2012 Annual Convention and Trade Show in Boston, Massachusetts, April 3-7. This is the premier event for business educators and administrators to learn new strategies, discover innovative solutions, and share best practices. Join your colleagues for 70+ cutting-edge education sessions, inspiring general session speakers, panel discussions, technology workshops, and numerous outstanding networking opportunities. **Register by March 14 to get the preregistration price.**

Chapter Sponsor Email

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Please notify the National Editor of corrections and additions.

Chapter	Sponsor	School	E-mail Address
Beta	Dr. Nancy Zeliff	Northwest Missouri State	nzeliff@nwmissouri.edu
Kappa	Dr. Lucinda Willis	Indiana University of Pennsylvania	willisl@iup.edu
Theta	Dr. Glen Bailey	Illinois State University	gabailey@ilstu.edu
Mu	Dr. Barbara Railsback	Emporia State University	brailsba@emporia.edu
Xi	Dr. Betty Brown	Ball State University	bbrown@bsu.edu
Sigma	Dr. Georgia Hicks	Southeastern Oklahoma State	gjhicks@se.edu
Chi	Dr. William Wilhelm	Indiana State University	wwilhelm@indstate.edu
Pi	Dr. Tim Schilling	Valley City State University	tim.schilling@vcsu.edu
Psi	Dr. Lajuan Davis	University Wisconsin-Whitewater	davisv@uww.edu
Alpha Beta	Dr. Faridah Awang	University of Eastern Kentucky	faridah.awang@eku.edu
Alpha Delta	Dr. John Olivo	Bloomsburg Univ. of Pennsylvania	jolivo@bloomu.edu
Alpha Iota	Dr. Robert Gryder	Arizona State University	gryder@asu.edu
Alpha Pi	Dr. Connie Forde	Mississippi State University	cforde@colled.msstate.edu
Alpha Rho	Dr. Patricia Arneson	Wayne State College	paarnes1@wsc.edu
Alpha Psi	Dr. DJ Kern-Blystone	Bowling Green State University	djkern@bgsu.edu
Alpha Sigma	Dr. Diane Fisher	University of Southern Mississippi	diane.fisher@usm.edu
Alpha Chi	Dr. Julie Chadd	Eastern Illinois University	jachadd@eiu.edu
Beta Kappa	Dr. Ivan Wallace	East Carolina University	wallacei@mail.ecu.edu
Beta Lambda	Marilyn Osinski Small	Shippensburg University	mmsmall@ship.edu
Gamma Upsilon	Dr. Ginny Richerson	Murray State University	vricherson@murraystate.edu
Gamma Phi	Dr. Betty Chapman	North Carolina A&T Univ.	blchapma@ncat.edu
Delta Omega	Dr. Jan Repnow	Minot State University	jan.repnow@minotstateu.edu
Zeta Delta	Dr. Emma Faulk	Alabama State University	efaulk@alasu.edu
Zeta Epsilon	Dr. Nancy Hicks	Central Michigan University	nancy.hicks@cmich.edu
Zeta Eta	Ms. Darla Stone	Kansas State University	djstone@ksu.edu