**Distinguished Chapter Officer Award - Application**

Question

**Select the nominee for Distinguished Chapter Officer Award from the list of eligible members below. The eligible chapter officers listed below have been reported to Headquarters as chapter officers in the 2011 calendar year. A student may receive this award only once.

If nominating two chapter officers for this award, a chapter advisor must set up a *new* collaboration team to create the application.**

Selection:

Rainwater, John

**Nomination 1 (3 Questions Listed Below): To be completed by a Chapter Officer or Current Member.**

Question 2

**Describe the nominee’s most significant leadership roles in planning and implementing Honors in Action and chapter development activities, and the impact of these contributions on the chapter, college, community and in OR beyond the region.***(Response cannot exceed 400 words.)*

Answer:

John Rainwater assisted the members decide on the study topic for the Honors in Action project and researched the chosen topic which started out to be Issue 4: Language and Communication. As the research continued, it became obvious we were headed in the direction of Issue 2: Technology. Next he participated in the decision of how the chapter would approach the project. The officers decided divide the topics of Issue 4, with each one conducting research. He formed several committees for the chapter's Honor in Action project,communicated closely with the committee chairs to make sure they stayed ontrack, and was a active member of several of the committees. John motivated members of the different committees by spending individual time with each committee and encouraging them to overcome obstacles. This inspired the members to take on the task at hand and perform more efficient. John started off the year with a copy of the five star requirements and had a plan to reach the five star level. He assisted other members in preparing the invitation letters for potential members, and put together the orientation meetings and presided over them. John organized the speaking roles for the induction ceremonies. He also attended the meeting with the college administration and was involved in deciding the best college project for the year. The college project was a success because of John’s determination. He always showed up first to set up for the project and spent as much time participating in the project as possible. About 1316 students and faculty were served on average 1804 cookies in the first two days of each semester. The members provided around 742 students with needed information, while performing the role of ambassadors for the college.

Question 3

**Provide specific examples of how the nominee has positively influenced one or more chapter members.**
*(Response cannot exceed 400 words).*

Answer:

John is active in the community by participating in United Way and the Relay-for-Life. He is a role model in the way he tutors any student with homework or helps the student in any way he can. He actively volunteers his time to the college the first two days of each semester as an ambassador for the college. John is a mentor to other members by encouraging the members to step out of their comfort zone. At the Regional convention in Conway, AR, John helped talk a fellow member into running for regional office which gave the member an experience he will be able to tell his grandkids about. John encouraged a new member to take the lead role in the breakout sesion in Conway, AR, where Beta Delta Phi was co-hosting, and the experience made the member feel more accepted, which in turn made the member more active. He encouraged another officer to be involved in researching and planning a presentation for the Oklahoma/Arkansas Regional Honors Institute in Tahlequah, OK. This officer had an experience in Phi Theta Kappa she can talk about for years to come.
John encourages scholarship first before any other Hallmark. He draws other members of the chapter into discussions about the Honor’s Study Topic. Through his gentle persuasion, John motivates other members to strive to conduct more research and develop their leadership skills. John served as president for one year. John engages members of Beta Delta Phi to become active by appointing them to committees and then following their progress and assisting as needed.

Question 4

**Provide specific examples of how the nominee has distinguished himself/herself in fulfilling the responsibilities of office, particularly related to cooperation with others, communication skills, and follow-through.**
*(Response cannot exceed 400 words.)*

Answer:

John was well prepared for every chapter and officer meeting. He had researched before the meetings topics which needed to be discussed. Communication was very important to John. He wanted to be sure to include everyone in the activities. Sometimes it took some gentle prodding and pushing to involve members. One example is the annual beauty pageant. Members volunteered to serve on committees but then would sit back hoping someone else would do the preparations. John would check on their progress, give words of encouragement, and nudge them back to the task at hand. In the end, everyone was participating and the pageant was a success. John met with the college president several times during the year to discuss ideas and to volunteer assistance with projects on campus. John would respond to challenges as a result of lack of participation of members by picking up some of the slack. When others saw what he was doing, they would step up to help. John is a leader by example. John sought to improve chapter programming by having more officer planning meetings and then the officers take turns presenting research related to the Honors Study Topic at chapter meetings. This improved the chapter meetings by including scholarship. Prior to this, the chapter meetings were more planning sessions than informative meetings on the Honors Study Topic.
John is an active advocate for volunteer work in the community. He attended almost all of the Relay-for-Life planning meetings which would enable him to report the plans back to the members of the chapter. The chapter could then make plans for participation in Relay-for-Life. As a result of John’s attendance at the Relay-for-Life meetings, volunteers from the American Cancer Society and five cancer survivors gave presentations to the audience at the annual beauty pageant which raises funds for Relay-for-Life. John also volunteered for another community service project when United Way had Community Day. He assisted the community in preparation for annual heritage festivities.His volunteering did not stop there he also volunteered for Project REACH (Researching Early Arkansas Cultural Heritage) in the Black River College chemistry exhibit by explaining to the public about the mortar analysis and Angel's Share (Baudoinia compniacensis). John also found time to assist with the PTK refreshment stand.

**Nomination 2 (3 Questions Listed Below): To be completed by a Chapter Advisor.**

Question 5

**Describe the nominee’s knowledge and promotion of Phi Theta Kappa programming and opportunities (e.g., Honors in Action, Five Star Chapter Development Plan, Five Star Competitive Edge, CollegeFish.org, scholarship opportunities, Hallmark Awards, regional and/or international events, etc.).**
*(Response cannot exceed 400 words.)*

Answer:

Mr. Rainwater served as Vice-President of Service for Beta Delta Phi, until the President resigned for personal reasons, at which time he was elected as President. John Rainwater is very knowledgeable of the programming opportunities provided by Phi Theta Kappa. He reads the Golden Key News Briefs on a regular basis and reports on the items to the Beta Delta Phi officers at the weekly planning sessions and made a special point to bring attention to Golden Key News Briefs to his chapter members during monthly chapter meetings. Mr. Rainwater also called the chapter members’ attention to various scholarships available to Phi Theta Kappa members through College Fish and other sources. Mr. Rainwater emphasized the importance of following the Five-Star Chapter Development Plan when setting goals for the chapter for the year. He was instrumental in keeping the chapter on track to complete items to enable the chapter to obtain the Five Star Level. Mr. Rainwater encouraged all members to enroll and participate in the Five Star Competitive Edge program to enhance leadership skills through leadership development. Mr. Rainwater served as a role model, peer mentor, and ambassador for the college. He utilized his time informing others of the benefits of becoming an active Phi Theta Kappa member. Mr. Rainwater was instrumental in encouraging chapter members to research the Honors Study Topic: Democratization of Information: Power, Peril, and Promise. He encouraged one of his fellow officers to present the chapter’s work at the OK/AR Region Mini-Honors Conference. A follow-up to the research resulted in community involvement during a workshop involving Issue 2 and the use of technology in finding employment in a digital world. Mr. Rainwater served as a role model for his fellow chapter members by attending and encouraging others to attend the Regional Mini-Honors Conference, Regional Convention, and Annual Convention in Seattle, WA. They gleaned information which was shared with the chapter members who were unable to attend these prestigious meetings. Mr. Rainwater understands the importance of the Hallmark Awards program and encouraged his officer team and chapter members to complete applications in all areas available to the chapter as a reflection on the hard work of everyone in the chapter.

Question 6

**Provide specific examples of how the nominee has distinguished himself/herself in fulfilling the responsibilities of office, particularly related to leadership, cooperation with others, communication skills, and follow-through.**
*(Response cannot exceed 400 words.)*

Answer:

John Rainwater fulfilled his office as President of Beta Delta Phi by being a true servant leader to his college, chapter, community, and region. Mr. Rainwater played a key part in the chapter being successful this past year. Mr. Rainwater spent numerous hours on campus collaborating with the officers during planning sessions for the chapter’s activities. He incorporated officers, members, and guests to assist with the College Project, who were serving as ambassadors to the college while serving fresh baked cookies and drinks to the students, faculty, and staff during the first two days of each semester. Approximately 2542 cookies were served to 1975 individuals. Cancer is a very prevalent disease which either affects an individual personally or it affects someone the individual knows, so the decision was made to support Relay-for-Life. One of the activities Beta Delta Phi utilized to raise funds is the annual Mr./Miss Phi Theta Kappa pageant. Mr. Rainwater, as a true leader, appointed several committees and delegated duties to ensure members had the opportunity to develop leadership skills as plans for the pageant developed. Mr. Rainwater did not appoint the committees and forget them. He followed the committees as they progressed through their respective assignments and made suggestions when progress slowed. He supported his team members as they made decisions on which community members should be selected to speak to the community during the pageant. The beauty pageant was considered a success as approximately two hundred community members and pageant participants learned about cancer from cancer survivors. An official for the American Cancer Society also spoke to the group. Beta Delta Phi raised a total of $1370.68 for the American Cancer Society for this one day event. During the College Project at the beginning of the semester he had the opportunity to visit with about seven hundred students and share the benefits of becoming a Phi Theta Kappa member. The highlight of John’s year as president was the opportunity to attend the Annual Convention in Seattle. Mr. Rainwater was able to broaden his horizons and strengthen his leadership skills through attendance of the sessions available. Mr. Rainwater was also influential and enlisted the assistance of other chapter members in filling out the Hallmark Awards applications. Together, they successfully completed filling out all of the application forms. Without Mr. Rainwater’s leadership, role modeling, and encouragement the Hallmark applications would not have been completed.

Question 7

**Describe the nominee's academic abilities, commitment to scholarship, and how he or she has shared his or her acquired knowledge with others.**

**If you as chapter advisor have not taught the nominee, contact a faculty member who has and summarize below his/her response to this question. Please include the name of the faculty member and when he/she taught the nominee. (Example: John Smith is a history professor who taught this member in the Spring 2011 semester.)** *(Response cannot exceed 400 words.)*

Answer:

Dr. Linda E. Moss was John Rainwater’s instructor. Mr. Rainwater’s academic abilities are excellent. It was a pleasure to have Mr. Rainwater as a student in four chemistry classes and as a chemistry laboratory assistant. He always had his assignments completed in a timely manner, was very courteous to his classmates and instructor, and served as volunteer peer tutor to his classmates in all classes. Mr. Rainwater’s commitment to scholarship is superb. He is a devoted learner who aspires to achieve a degree in mechanical engineering with a minor in chemistry. I first came to know John just prior to an ice storm in January 2009, when he inquired about Phi Theta Kappa membership with Beta Delta Phi. At the time Mr. Rainwater became a Phi Theta Kappa member his intentions were “it will be nice on my transcript,” with no plans of becoming an active member. Shortly after our meeting Mr. Rainwater was a victim of severe head trauma when a tree limb fell on him. Mr. Rainwater was unable to complete his studies for the semester. College policy states a student has one semester to complete course where an incomplete was given. He approached me for advice on gaining more time. We were successful in gaining more time for Mr. Rainwater to complete the course work started during the semester the injury occurred. As we talked and came to know each other Mr. Rainwater decided to become active in Beta Delta Phi and its activities. As he became more involved, his leadership skills began to shine and he ran for and was elected president of the chapter. Mr. Rainwater shares his knowledge with others on almost a daily basis. He has words of encouragement for his chapter members and officers. He serves as a mentor and peer tutor to students on campus. Many students seek Mr. Rainwater out for assistance on chemistry homework. Mr. Rainwater researched the chemistry aspect of the Honors Study Topic Democratization of Information: Power, Peril, and Promise, which he shares with his peers and members of Beta Delta Phi as well as the community and OK/AR Region. I have come to know Mr. Rainwater quite well and can attest to his academic ability, commitment to scholarly activities and his willingness to share his knowledge with others as a peer tutor. Mr. Rainwater received the coveted and prestigious chemistry award.