

HONORS CONNECTION

MERCED COLLEGE

February 26 , 2015

Volume VII, Number 2

“Send This Payne to China!”: Pamela Payne Chosen for PTK/ISLP Delegation



Pamela Payne with Her Daughter Camryn at the Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony

Many of the benefits of being involved in an honors society such as Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the community college international honors society, often go undiscovered. This was the case for Pamela Payne, a member of the Merced College chapter of PTK, until she recently received the honor of being nominated to attend a delegation on medicine and science in Beijing, China. This delegation, which is co-sponsored by PTK and the International Scholar Laureate Program (ISLP), will spend ten days in China this June.

As Pamela recently stated, “Being a member of PTK has opened doors for me in ways I could not have predicted. Many may be aware of the millions of dollars in scholarships given away every year to PTK students; however most are not informed of the additional benefits available. Even though I have been recruited by several distinguished universities because of my membership in PTK, I had no idea that it would lead to such an honor as being selected to be a member of an ISLP delegation.”

Returning to school after becoming disabled (and at a later age than many), Pamela was not certain what kind of a student she would be, or how her disabilities might interfere with her

educational goals. But she is pleased to say that her time spent at Merced College has taught her far more than just how to study. “The person I was when I started this journey is a mere shadow of the person I have become while working toward my A.A.; due to my personal growth, my goals as a student have grown as well.” When she started back to school she had hopes of becoming an addiction counselor to aid those who suffer from addiction as a byproduct of chronic disease; now she has realized that her heart lies in researching the Psychology of Health, with a focus on avoiding addiction by decreasing the use of prescription drugs.

Pamela’s new educational goal explains why she is so excited about being chosen for the ISLP delegation. “In essence, I hope to help uncover ways to treat certain conditions, such as the pain and anxiety that accompany illness, through alternative therapies that do not rely on the use of narcotics.” The delegation to China is focused on helping future practitioners combine Eastern and Western Philosophies of medicine in order to develop a whole-health approach, an approach that meshes well with her educational goal, which she will continue pursuing next fall at UC Merced, as well as with her personal strategy for facilitating her recovery after being diagnosed with an inherited genetic condition.

While being chosen to be part of the ISLP delegation is in itself an honor for Pamela, participating will require a significant amount of fundraising. To make sure that she will be able to join the delegation, Pamela has begun a campaign that she has playfully titled, “Send this Payne to China!” To learn more about her journey or to make a donation, please visit Pamela’s fundraising site: <http://www.youcaring.com/tuition-fundraiser/send-this-payne-to-china-/297656>.

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Important Dates:

- February 27 (and the last Friday of March and April)—AGS Project to Feed the Homeless at the Rescue Mission
- March 7—PTK Induction Ceremony
- March 31—Deadline to Submit Application for McConnell Honors Scholarships
- April 17-19—AGS State Convention
- April 25—PTK Participates in Relay for Life
- April 27-28—AGS Blood Drive

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SPRING 2015 MEETING TIMES:

Alpha Gamma Sigma:

Thursdays, 4:00 p.m., IAC Humanities Conference Room

Phi Theta Kappa:

Wednesdays, 3:30 p.m., IAC-109



FALL 2015 HONORS CLASSES:

COMM 1H, MWF 10:00-10:50, PROFESSOR JIM BONSTEIN

HIST 17AH, MWF 9:00-9:50, PROFESSOR MIKE LORENZ

HNRS 40C (PHILOSOPHY AND ROCK MUSIC), T 2:00-3:50, PROFESSOR MAX HALLMAN

HUM 1H, MW 2:00-3:15, PROFESSOR SHIRLEY KAHLERT

PHIL 1H, MWF 9:00-9:50, PROFESSOR MAX HALLMAN



The Many Benefits of Membership in Alpha Gamma Sigma

by Nathan W. Mazon



AGS Members Hosting a Blood Drive on the Merced College Campus and Serving a Meal at the Merced Rescue Mission

Alpha Gamma Sigma is one of the honor societies at Merced College. Being a member of AGS brings many benefits, such as local and statewide scholarships, community service projects that help the community and members down the road, and recognition at graduation.

To be a part of all AGS has to offer, all you need is a cumulative GPA of 3.0 in at least 12 units of college coursework. Incoming students who are lifetime members of the California Scholarship Federation (CSF) are also eligible to join. If you meet either requirement, all that is left to do is submit an application, turn in unofficial transcripts, and pay \$20 in dues.

Alpha Gamma Sigma values community service

and giving back to those who are less fortunate. AGS makes a notable contribution to the public through hosting blood drives, organizing a rescue mission dinner on the last Friday of every month, and being in charge of recycling on campus.

But we don't just work, we also have fun. AGS holds socials every month to build camaraderie and friendship among members. We also attend a regional conference in the fall and the AGS State Conference in the spring. We make an effort to balance work with play and we welcome everyone who is eligible to join us. If you want to be part of all AGS has to offer, stop by a meeting. Meetings are held every Thursday at 4:00 p.m. in the IAC Humanities Conference Room (upstairs).