

# SILVER & GOLD NEWSLETTER

NEVADA/CALIFORNIA REGION

**The Nevada/California  $\Phi\Theta\K$  Honor Society Regional Board's mission is to positively transform the community and the lives of its members through service, leadership, scholarship, and through the creation of strong and collaborative connections between the chapters in the region.**



Art By Peter H. Diamandis, MD  
December 2, 2016

## **Assess, Acknowledge, Achieve Change Begins with You!**



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NEVADA / CALIFORNIA  
**YOUR REGIONAL  
BOARD**



Regional Officers:

President- Nicholas Ibarra  
Interim Comm. VP- Mariamne Beuscher  
Webmaster VP- Husham Haroun  
Northeast District VP- Fatiatamai Folau  
Northwest District VP- Preethi Ravichandran  
Southeast District VP- Lizeth Lopez Vazquez  
Southwest and Nevada District- Vacant

Regional Coordinator:  
Myriam Moody

Associate Regional Coordinators':  
Bruno Rhodes  
Cathy Gillis

Alumni Advisors:  
Sal Addotta  
Paul Roscelli

Alumni Executive Board:  
President- William Dimopoulos  
Executive Vice President- Sheila Burson  
Secretary- Faustina Washburn  
Treasurer- Barbara Dimopoulos  
Director of Communications- Mariamne Beusher

Directors-At- Large:  
Michael Odu  
Gianfranco Gastelo  
Jennifer Rico-Garcia  
Iliana Torres  
Britany Lopez-Haw  
Christina Essaqi

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# MYRIAM'S CORNER

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## REGIONAL COORDINATOR

Hello NV/CA Region!

I hope all is well. As summer draws to a close and fall is on the horizon, I know a lot of you are gearing up for the semester to come. Hopefully you have the class schedule that you would like and are getting the supplies you need to help make you successful. It also means that Phi Theta Kappa chapters across the states are starting to plan their own activities for the upcoming months. One of the hallmarks that I am reminded of when it comes to our NV/CA chapters is service. The actual definition of service according to the Google dictionary is "the action of helping or doing work for someone." This to me typifies the members of Phi Theta Kappa. In my time as advisor for the chapter at Southwestern College, I have seen my own chapter members pitch in when someone needs a hand be it on a College or Honors in Action Project, a fundraiser, or needing help studying for an exam. Afterwards, they inform me that they gained so much more than just helping someone. They learned more about themselves as well as gained more skills. This in turn allowed them to speak to others who were looking for the same experience and encouraged them to volunteer. I know this kind of service not only happens in my chapter but at chapters throughout NV/CA Region as well.

There is an article in this edition of the newsletter that has to do with servant leadership. Let me ask you something? Have you ever put the needs of someone else or even your chapter ahead of your own for a short period of time? Did it help build a better community, improve relationships, or help others reach their potential? If so, then you are a servant leader. Many of the NV/CA Advisors are servant leaders. They often put their chapter needs ahead of their own to help their chapter accomplish a goal. Advisors, I take off my hat to you. You demonstrate what it means to serve and do so in a leadership role. Phi Theta Kappa members, know that you have some of the best advisors right in front of you. They are demonstrating what the hallmark of service actually means. Let's build a better community, state, and region by learning what it means to serve.



Myriam Moody



2018

# FALL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

SAN DIEGO, CA



## Date & Time:

Fri, Oct 19, 2018 at 5:00PM - Sat, Oct 20, 2018 at 5:00PM

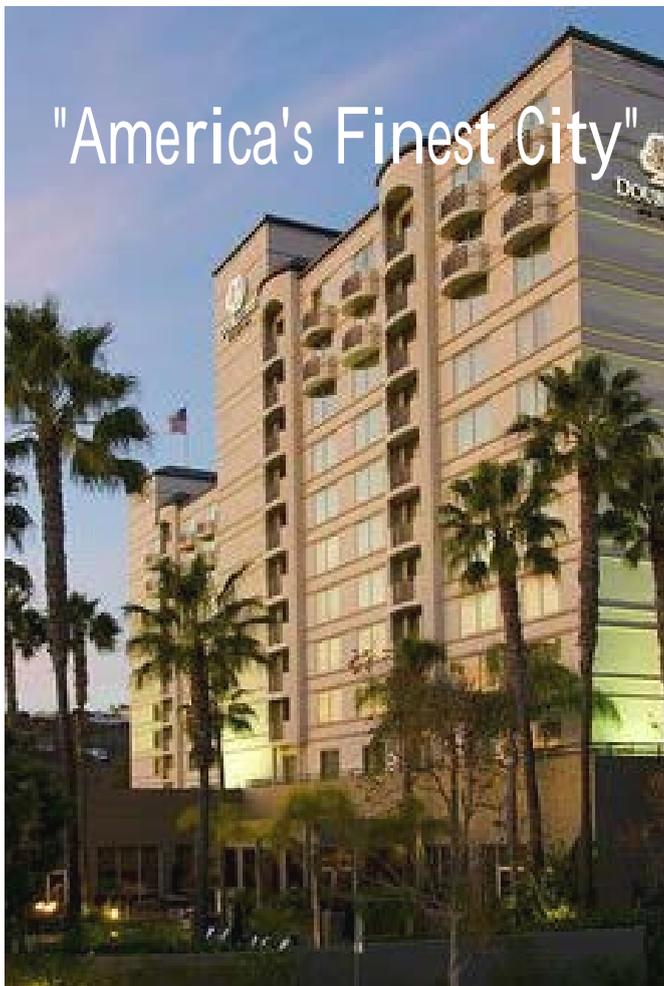
\*\*\*Deadline to register for the conference is October 12, 2018

## Location:

Doubletree by Hilton Hotel

7450 Hazard Center Dr, San Diego, CA 92108

\*\*\* DEADLINE TO MAKE ROOM RESERVATIONS IS SEPTEMBER 28, 2018





# DID YOU KNOW?



## 1 NEW HIA RUBRIC

Did you know the HiA Rubric has been revised? See:

[https://www.ptk.org/portals/0/docs/awards/hallmarks/2019\\_honors\\_in\\_action\\_project\\_rubrics\\_Final.pdf](https://www.ptk.org/portals/0/docs/awards/hallmarks/2019_honors_in_action_project_rubrics_Final.pdf)

## 2 The Northeast District Summit

Will be held at Sacramento City College  
On Saturday, September 29, 2018

## 3 The Southwest District Summit

Will be held at MiraCosta College  
On Saturday, September 22, 2018

## 4 The Northwest District Summit

Will be held at De Anza College  
On Saturday, October 6, 2018

## 5 Phi Theta Kappa made the news!

The article can be found at:

<https://bit.ly/2PvtLaL>



## **NV/CA ALUMNI BOARD PRESIDENT** **WILLIAM DIMOPOULOS**

Bill Dimopoulos has been in the business and accounting world for about 40 years. He started his college education at age 17, but as they say, “life happened!” He dropped out of school for a full- time job, and one thing led to another. before he knew it, he had a wife and two grown children. At age 54, after four attempts to finish his college education, he went back to school.

Bill eased his way into community college for the fifth time in the summer of 2008. After one semester, he was informed that he was being invited to join the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society (PTK). This led him to join PTK and be among other students who wanted to succeed. Bill stepped forward to accept leadership positions within the college’s PTK chapter and a position in the college’s accounting society club as well.

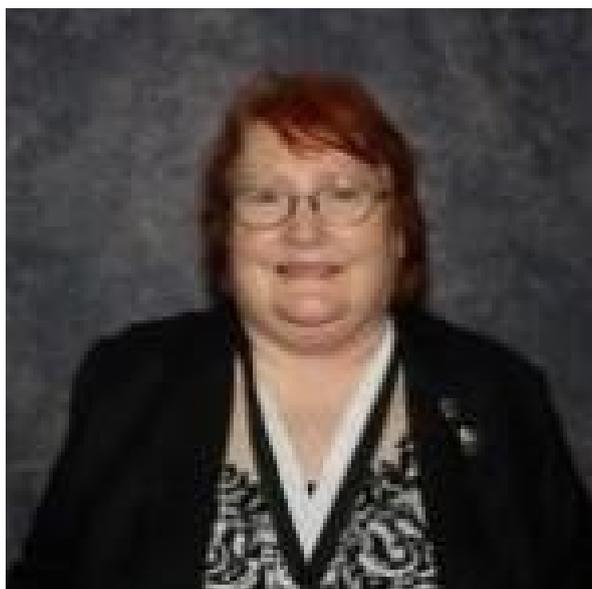
After completing three degrees at American River College, Bill transferred to CSU Sacramento and was accepted into the College of Business. He was asked to join the Delta Epsilon Lota Honor Society and also became a member of the CSU Accounting Society. He finished with a Bachelor’s degree in Accountancy in May 2015.

However, that was not enough for Bill, before he graduated, he applied to graduate school and was accepted for the fall of 2015. He was also informed that he had qualified for a new program at CSU Sacramento, the International Masters of Business Administration (IMBA). The program was going to have students from all over the world participate on campus. He completed his MBA in September 2016 with Honors.

This is his second career and has been teaching Accounting and Business courses at two different college districts for a year. Bill is loving it and looking forward to giving back.



# Alumni Executive Board



**Executive Vice President**  
**SHEILA BURSON**

Sheila Burson joined her local chapter, Beta Theta Kappa, at Butte College, Beta Theta Kappa, in 2006. Serving as Vice-President of Scholarship locally, she then served as NE Vice President and President of the Region before running for international office. She transferred and completed her MFA in 2016. She has served in every position on the Alumni Board except Director-at-Large. Her first novel was published in 2017 and her second is due out this summer.



**Secretary**  
**FAUSTINA WASHBURN**

Faustina Washburn attended Truckee Meadows Community College, Alpha Pi Gamma. She graduated in June 2002 with a degree in Occupational Safety and Health. She served as chapter Vice-President, President and Secretary. Her claim to fame: won an International Honors Institute scholarship for an essay on the Vietnam Memorial wall. The chapter won Regional Most Outstanding Chapter during her presidential term. She retired from Waste Management (WM), Inc. as a Fleet Compliance Manager in 2017. Many donations were made by WM to alumni and the region thanks to her efforts. Faustina graduated from Fresno State with an MA in 1972. She then taught high school for 9 years and lectured at Fresno State for one year. Faustina was an owner/operator for 18 years and then drove cross-country for a couple of years for Interstate Distributors.





## Treasurer

### BARBARA DIMOPOULOS

Currently the Treasurer for the NCRAA, Barbara has been the Advisor for the Beta Theta Lambda Chapter at Merritt College since October 2006. During her tenure, there have been three NV/CA Regional Officers, one All-USA Awardee and 15 All-State Awardees. She was presented the NV/CA Horizon Award for Advisors in March 2015. She has attended two International Conventions, Catalyst 2018 being the most recent, and numerous fall leadership conferences and spring regional conventions. She participated in the first Advisor's Institute in Fresno, CA in September 2013. She is working on her Advisor Five-Star Competitive Edge Leadership program and hopes to complete it by the Fall Leadership Conference. Barbara's career in education at the community colleges began in January 1987 when she was hired to teach English reading and writing to deaf and hard-of-hearing students at American River College (ARC), Sacramento, CA. In fall 1987 she was transferred to the Learning Disabilities Program but continued to work as an interpreter in the Los Rios Community College District. She was hired as an interpreter at CSU, Sacramento on July 1, 1989 and was a staff member in Services to Students with Disabilities through September 1994. Having completed her M.A. in Education with an emphasis in learning disabilities in 1993, she began a full-time career as a Learning Disabilities Specialist at Merritt College in Oakland, CA in January 1995 to present. During these years she continued to do free-lance interpreting, retiring in 2010. She also began teaching American Sign Language at CSU, Sacramento in January 1995 and has taught ASL 1, 2 and 3. However, more often she teaches two sections of ASL 2, her preferred level. One of her most cherished awards is her induction into the Mt. Pleasant High School (MPHS) Hall of Fame in October 2004 for her contributions to education, working with students with disabilities. She worked for almost 10 years in several positions at MPHS before moving to Sacramento in 1982. She holds a B.A. in Spanish from Santa Clara University (1972), an M.A. in Education from CSU, Sacramento (1993), a lifetime Community College Credential from the State Chancellor's Office for students with disabilities (1990) and a Certificate of Achievement in Distance Education from Merritt College (2014). She is a member of Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Theta Kappa (Beta Zeta Pi Chapter at American River College), a member of the PTK Association of Advisor's, and a member of the Merritt College Faculty Association. She plans to retire in 2020 and devote more time to her husband, Bill of 40 years, and the Alumni Association.



**Director of  
Communications**  
**MARIAMNE BEUSCHER**

Mariamne Beuscher joined the Beta Eta Psi chapter of Phi Theta Kappa in the spring of 2012. Mariamne has served as the VP of Communications at both the chapter and regional levels. After completing her Associate's Degree in Communication at Sacramento City College, she became a member of the Nevada/California Regional Alumni Association. Mariamne transferred to UC Davis where she completed her Bachelor's Degree with a major in Communication and minor in Psychology.





# INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FINDS FAMILY IN PTK

By Eric Cogswell

Alessandra Chimienti always looked up to people who left their home countries to travel or live abroad and learn a new language, but she never thought she'd be one of them. She grew up in a small town in Puglia, in southern Italy. After earning the equivalent of a bachelor's degree in education with highest honors, she realized the job opportunities in Italy at that time were low. This was her opportunity for an adventure.

A few years earlier, her aunt and uncle, Stefania and Roberto Ciccarelli, had bought her a plane ticket to the United States to open her eyes about the great possibilities the world offered. During the trip, she fell in love with California; as she now thought about changing her life, that love came back. Alessandra enrolled in a cultural exchange program and came to the United States in 2014 to work as an au pair for a family in Oakland, California. There was just one problem — she didn't speak English.

In 2016 Alessandra decided to continue her education and enrolled at Berkeley City College. But when a friend joined the Phi Theta Kappa chapter at Merritt College, also in the Peralta Community College District, she transferred. She was fascinated by the idea of being part of an honor society. She now faced a three-hour round-trip commute to school, but she felt like she was joining an organization she'd been part of for years. "They welcomed me," she said. "They didn't care about where I was from nor about my accent. They just cared that I was trying to be the best person I could be. "It was the beginning of a completely new version of college for me. I wasn't just a foreigner anymore; I was part of a community."

Spurred by her advisor, Barbara Dimopoulos, Alessandra became treasurer of the Beta Theta Lambda Chapter in 2017. The loneliness she had felt as an international student began to fade.

"In PTK, I felt like part of something bigger," she said. "More than a chapter, it felt like a family to me. I am very grateful to Barbara, her husband Bill, and all the officers for supporting me, inspiring me, and for playing such an important role in my life." Alessandra's network widened. Her affiliation with PTK helped her find a job in the business services department under Dr. Dettie Del Rosario, who quickly became a mentor. Now she was putting to use the skills she was learning in her classes.

Despite financial difficulties, Alessandra graduated in May with three degrees and three certificates in business — all with a 4.0 GPA. She was named valedictorian of her class at Merritt and gave the commencement address at graduation. Her mother came from Italy to be there for the special occasion.

Alessandra now lives in San Francisco and plans to seek an MBA. Her circle continues to grow — she has founded a community for people in her area originally from South Italy. It started with just two members and now has more than 150. A violinist in the group was also a PTK member in college. Alessandra said PTK improved her life significantly by giving her a strong support system, something that can be key for international students. She encourages other international students to look for the PTK chapters on their campuses and to get involved with them. "Being a PTK member gives you a network to lean on if you need it, and it opens doors for what you want to do next," she said. "PTK had such a positive impact in my life both personally and professionally, and I'm sure it will help me again in the future."



## Introducing NV/CA's new Webmaster VP

### HUSHAM HAROUN

Husham Haroun is a student at Sacramento City College and is a computer science major with an emphasis on programming, and his plan is to transfer to a 4-year university. Husham has served on the student government as Secretary of Technology and is currently employed as a technician for the Sacramento City College student tech support. Husham has many years of programming and is finishing his computer science degree and programming certificate. He has also served as Vice President of Technology and President of his chapter at Sacramento City College. Husham looks forward to helping and applying his knowledge and skills to best serve the Nevada California Region.

