

# State of the Society

The Quarterly Newsletter for The National Society of Collegiate Scholars



Fall 2011

## In this issue:

NSCS National Office Prepares Chapters for Induction Convocation

Scholarship Spotlight: E-Scholar Award

Semester at Sea Scholarship Recipients Experience Different Cultures



Left to Right: NLC Executive Vice President Scott Perske, NLC Deputy Vice President Brady Griffith along with Hillsborough Community College officers Klenton Perry and Ada Sulbaran.

## NSCS Launches New Website

The countdown is over and the new NSCS website has arrived! Featuring a sleek design, simple navigation and innovative features the new website has already become a valuable resource for chapter officers, advisors and NSCS members alike.

The "Featured Opportunities" section is one of the new benefits of the website. Once members log in, they can take advantage of current opportunities available such as applying for open scholarships, limited time offer discounts or partner benefits in the "Featured Opportunities" section, which will be updated weekly.

"NSCS' mission is to recognize and elevate high achievers," said Director of Marketing and Public Relations, Mishri Someshwar. "We know that our members work hard and we wanted to give them the tools they need to succeed and achieve their goals. The tools we provide in the new website can help them reach their full potential."

Check out the new NSCS website by visiting [www.nscs.org](http://www.nscs.org)

## SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT NSCS-ISLP Scholarship Recipient



2011 NSCS-ISLP Scholarship Recipient, Richard Sellnow.

Congratulations to Richard Sellnow (University of Kentucky), the recipient of the 2011 NSCS-International Scholar Laureate Program (ISLP) Scholarship. Sellnow has been awarded \$2,000 toward the cost of attending one of ISLP's culturally immersive study abroad programs.

## NSCS National Office Prepares Chapters for Induction Convocation



Left to Right: Mishri Someshwar, Bailey Khan, Rana Shirzadi, Liz Sellers and Jen Castillo assemble Induction boxes.

The NSCS national office coordinates with more than 300 chapters across the US, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico to prepare them for Induction Convocation. Induction Convocation is a formal event where new members can meet chapter leadership and have their first formal introduction into the Society. However, Induction Convocation is not just for new members, transferring members are also invited and current members are encouraged to attend to support the new inductees. Induction is one of the first NSCS events of the new school year and as such, it's important for chapters to be prepared. Here's a look at some of the steps taken by the NSCS national office to ensure each chapter is ready to hold a remarkable Induction Convocation.

Induction preparation starts during the spring semester when Member Engagement Managers begin speaking with chapters about scheduling the date, time and place of their Induction Convocation. Additionally, chapters are encouraged to submit their Distinguished Member nominations at this time—individuals who receive honorary membership into the Society. Once the Induction has been scheduled, the next step is to prepare chapter leadership for the event. Officers will receive membership pins, an Induction script and PowerPoint presentation to use during their Induction Convocation inclusive of videos sharing NSCS experiences and an official welcome from Alma Powell, Board Chair, America's Promise. 2-3 weeks prior to their Induction, the chapter leadership will receive a phone call from their Member Engagement Manager to go over the Induction checklist and answer any questions.

Additionally, each year the national office prepares Induction boxes to be sent to chapter officers with material, such as membership pins, that the chapter will need for their ceremony. Although it is an all-day event, preparing Induction boxes is a fun activity that the staff enjoys. "It's a great day for some team bonding with the greater good in mind that providing these boxes to the chapters makes it easier for them to hold a great Induction if we give them the right tools to make it successful," said Senior Manager, Program Development and Implementation, Kayla Manning.



Katie Mang and Rachel Thornton prepare Induction boxes.

Induction boxes are sent prior to the Induction date to ensure the chapter has plenty of time to receive the box and become familiar with the contents. Online chapters do not receive a box because the Induction is held virtually and members receive their pins with their membership materials upon joining.

To find out more about Induction, visit <http://www.nscs.org/programs/induction-convocation/>

## SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT E-Scholar Award

The NSCS E-Scholar Award is awarded to two outstanding NSCS members who attend an online university. This year we would like to congratulate the 2011 NSCS E-Scholar Award recipients—Cynthia Chamberlain (Strayer University) and Joyce Broderson (Argosy University). Each recipient has been awarded \$1,000 toward the cost of tuition.

When she found out she had been selected to receive the scholarship, Broderson said, "I was totally excited about that opportunity coming to me, it gave me an additional incentive to continue on as I've been and lets me see that there is a light at the end of the tunnel in the form of graduating and moving on to what I really want to do."

For Chamberlain, being awarded the scholarship was a reminder of how much she has overcome. "I'm going through some physical challenges and it can be really easy to get depressed but I try to stay upbeat because I know that my brain is still working and I still have a thirst for knowledge and you don't just give up, you don't quit no matter what adversity," Chamberlain said.

"You've got to keep going and winning that scholarship, it made me feel like I was still part of the world, that I still can make a difference somewhere."

Both recipients feel the scholarship has helped enhance their online experience by letting them know that organizations, such as NSCS, are there to support them.

"Knowing that there's someone or an organization behind me that is supporting me is extremely helpful because online you don't really see people day to day so it seems to be rather a lonely experience," Broderson said. "[The scholarship] lets you know that there are some people behind you that are happy that you're in school and that you're doing well."

When asked if she had any advice for other online students, Chamberlain said, "Online has afforded so many of us opportunities that we may not have had in the regular order of a classroom. I think the best advice is get engaged with your classmates and don't give up."

For more information about NSCS scholarships, visit <http://www.nscs.org/scholarships/>



## NSCS Experiences Success with TalkNerdy2Me: A College Life Blog

It all started as an idea—an idea that Manager, Member Services and Interaction, Leah Schklar had when she first started working at NSCS in March of 2010. “When I started at NSCS and took on the task of developing NSCS’s social media presence and engagement, I knew having a blog was going to be an important part of that,” Schklar said. “Not only did I want to have a place to recognize our members and chapters for the wonderful things they were doing, but I also knew members would appreciate having the opportunity to write and express themselves.”

Over time the blog idea developed and the social media group at the national office contributed feedback and ideas to make the blog a reality. In March, NSCS launched TalkNerdy2Me, a college life blog. Since the launch, TalkNerdy2Me has featured countless blog posts from NSCS members, college students, business professionals and blog partners. The majority of posts are written by NSCS members and keeps within our “Geek is Chic” theme, featuring seven blog categories: tech geek, chic geek, eco geek, pop geek, fit geek, campus geek and biz geek. However, the blog also features an additional section titled “the honor roll” which recognizes some of the outstanding events and community service activities

performed by NSCS chapters. “The honor roll is a great way to recognize the hard work of NSCS Chapters and share stories about the big and small programs on their campuses,” said Senior Manager, Member Engagement, Katie Mang. “We hope their stories inspire other organizations and NSCS Chapters to try new projects and serve their communities.”

Through partnerships with other blogs, TalkNerdy2Me has joined the ranks of influential and successful college blogs. With over 15 blog partners including The College Crush, Campus Splash, Hack College and Community College Success, it’s no surprise that TalkNerdy2Me has also become a platform for relevant giveaways and contests. In the past month, TalkNerdy2Me has featured giveaways for an iPad 2 and Adobe CS5. Additionally, TalkNerdy2Me, along with other blog partners, is featuring The Adobe Imagination Challenge contest on the site. College students can enter the Adobe Imagination Challenge for a chance to win one of five grand prizes of \$10,000 or one of 36 opportunities to win \$550 for runners-up. “Working with other blogs has been a great opportunity!” Schklar said. “The blog itself has benefited by getting more exposure and I have developed some great relationships with other college bloggers.”

To read the latest posts on TalkNerdy2Me, visit <http://www.talknerdy2me.org>

## Congratulations to All New NSCS Chapters!

- Montclair State University
- Franklin University
- Utah Valley University
- New Jersey City University
- Everest University Online
- The College at Brockport
- Baker University
- Old Dominion University
- Binghamton Univ. (SUNY)
- Tennessee State Univ.
- Stevens-Henager College (Online)
- Univ. of Texas Pan-American
- Grand Valley State Univ.
- New Jersey Institute of Technology
- U of Maryland, Eastern Shore
- Queens College
- Central Texas College
- Dallas County Community College
- Texas State U-San Marcos
- College of Staten Island
- South U-Savannah Campus
- LA Mission College
- Ramapo College of New Jersey
- Hunter College

## Conferences and More!

Over the summer, the Chapter Development (CD) TEAM had great success traveling to the following conferences:

- **Star Leaders Conference in St. Louis, MO:** This conference was sponsored by NASSP for JNHS and NHS members. While there, the CD TEAM presented information to the JNHS and NHS members about NSCS programs and opportunities.
- **NASPA Region 2 Conference in Baltimore, MD:** Manager of Chapter Development, Catherine Provost gave a poster presentation about NSCS’ PACE program.

The CD TEAM is continually chaptering new territory and excited to reach more campuses throughout the US!

To learn more about starting a chapter of NSCS on your campus, visit <http://www.nscs.org/contact/>



## Scholarship Recipients Reflect and Prepare for the Future through S2 Challenge

This summer, NSCS launched a unique summer program, the Summer Success (S2) Challenge. Each week, a different personal and professional development challenges was featured on Facebook for members to complete to earn points. Completion of the challenges provided members the opportunity to reflect on the past year, give back through community service and prepare for the future. Top challenger Anthony Oxx of Murray State University will receive a \$1,000 scholarship. Runners-up Dawn Angelicca of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, and Jessica Ingle of The University of Tennessee will each receive a \$500 scholarship.

"I decided to participate because I thought it was a great opportunity to learn more about myself and prepare myself for the business world," Ingle said. The scholarship was also an incentive. "I decided to participate because several of my federal grants were defunded recently and I wanted the opportunity to get additional help with the cost of attending college," Oxx said.

Another way the S2 Challenge appeals to members is that it takes place through social media.

"I'm glad that NSCS is so supportive of scholarship endeavors and will cater to what is being widely used by students-- Facebook and Twitter as of now," Angelicca said.

After she found out she was selected as a scholarship recipient, Ingle shared, "[I was] almost brought to tears. I was so excited and happy to know I had won a scholarship to help pay for my tuition. I work so hard and it is nice to know that other people appreciate my efforts."

The scholarship has also had an impact on Top Challenger Oxx and his family, "'I am a first generation college student and I want to show my family that hard work pays off and that their dreams can truly be attainable goals," he said. "[Winning this scholarship] means so much to me and my family."

Participation in the S2 Challenge has made such an impact that Oxx has already started sharing his experience with the program with other NSCS members. "I posted my win on our Murray State NSCS Chapter page and encouraged everyone to get involved in all the scholarship opportunities that NSCS offers," Oxx shared. "Being a member of an honor society as supportive as NSCS comes with huge benefits and I want to make sure my campus knows about them!"

## S2 Challenge Responses



"Giving back to the community and showing integrity is so important to a vibrant community! All the shampoo and toothpaste in this picture was donated by the wonderful students and staff at Murray State University. Our Murray State SIFE team had the opportunity to run this donation drive this spring. Life is much more rewarding when you show integrity and live an ethical life! #S2C"

- Anthony Oxx



"This is me after I pulled out a huge weed from a field that grows natural and organic produce for Elijah's Promise Soup Kitchen in New Brunswick, New Jersey. I worked in the soup kitchen before, preparing meals and setting up for meal hours, but I had no idea that Elijah's Promise also locally grew its own produce to provide not only a free meal, but a healthy meal for the poor and homeless who come in. I volunteered with a program at Rutgers University to help weed out the field so there was more room for seeds and new crops to be planted for the next harvesting season, which gave me a new perspective on how many hands are truly needed when feeding the hungry. #S2C"

- Dawn Angelicca



"I went to Guatemala for a child our class was sponsoring. We donated a bunch of toys and spent time with him while we were down there.

He was so happy to receive all the toys. The mother was very happy as well. It was so rewarding to see the happiness in this family's eyes. I am so glad to have experienced this opportunity and will never forget it. #S2C"

- Jessica Ingle



Will Cleek and a friend ride camelback during their Semester at Sea experience in Morocco. Cleek was selected as a 2011 Semester at Sea Spring Scholarship recipient.

## Semester at Sea Scholarship Recipients Experience Different Cultures

Through NSCS' partnership with the Institute for Shipboard Education, members can apply for the Semester at Sea Scholarship and embark on a summer or semester voyage while gaining international perspective and experience. Congratulations to Philip McGuire (Chapman University), the recipient of the 2011 Semester at Sea Spring Scholarship and congratulations to the 2011 Semester at Sea Summer Voyage Scholarship Recipients: Eric Bennett (Morehouse College), Will Cleek (University of Kansas) and Bridgette Carter (Indiana University-Bloomington). McGuire has been awarded \$10,000 toward the cost of his Semester at Sea tuition and each summer voyage recipient has been awarded \$5,900.

The Semester at Sea program is unique in that it allows students to gain firsthand cultural experience while visiting multiple countries and taking relevant classes. "Semester at Sea shows its voyagers the true scope of the world," McGuire said. "It shifts one's perspective from themselves to others. I am now proud to be a digital arts major because I have seen the positive impact that a film made here at home can have on people thousands of miles away by entertaining and inspiring them."

Not only does the Semester at Sea voyage allow students to travel to multiple countries, the experience also provides students the opportunity develop an appreciation for other cultures. "[Semester at Sea] allowed me to see the world in a different light," Cleek shared. "There's a difference between learning about someone who is Islamic and then seeing a father and a son together in a mosque. It takes away the boundaries a bit and made me more comfortable interacting with people of all cultures

and not carrying the stereotypes that we as Americans tend to have."

Eric Bennett agrees that dispelling myths and stereotypes was one of the many ways the Semester at Sea experience impacted him. "We form our perceptions through generalizations but once you experience [the culture] for yourself, you see something different," Bennett said. "Through the Semester at Sea experience I gained an appreciation for all the things we take for granted."



Semester at Sea participants pose for the camera during an excursion in Morocco.

Upon returning from the Semester at Sea voyage, Bridgette Carter feels that the experience has positively impacted her life. "This experience forced me to get completely out of my comfort zone, no matter how scary and uncertain I felt and immediately immersed me into cultures I was personally unfamiliar with," Carter said. "This consequentially led me to gain confidence in my navigational skills, as well as a greater sense of who I am as a person. I can't even find the words to describe how this voyage has transformed me!"

## NSCS and FSU Connect to Offer the Seminole Scholar Service Award



Chapter members at The Florida State University celebrate their 2010 Induction Convocation.

NSCS and The Florida State University have connected under one common goal: to encourage service learning and civic engagement through the Seminole Scholar Service Award. The Seminole Scholar Service Award will provide \$5,000 to allow one NSCS member to complete a servicership with the Center for Leadership and Civic Education at FSU.

This servicership opportunity serves as a lasting tribute to the service commitment that NSCS and FSU share and you too can be a part of this service initiative. Any undergraduate member of the NSCS Chapter at FSU is eligible to apply for this servicership opportunity.

On October 27, 2011 at 7:00 pm in the State Ballroom, Oglesby Union, FSU will hold their Induction Convocation where more information about the servicership will be shared by University President Eric J. Barron, Vice President for Student Affairs Mary Coburn and guest speaker Dr. Norman Thagard, formerly an FSU professor and NASA astronaut.

FSU is one of the premiere NSCS chapters exhibited by their campus activities including chapter and officer meetings, community service, social activities, campus recognition, mentoring, tutoring and recruitment efforts that the chapter performs throughout the year. The Seminole Scholar Service Award is a great way for NSCS to support our members' involvement within their community.

Catch up with the FSU chapter by visiting their Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/nscs.fsu>

### NSCS Members Complete Universum "Ideal Employer Survey"

Earlier this year, NSCS members and alumni were asked to complete the Universum "Ideal Employer Survey." The survey included questions about the companies that NSCS members would like to work for and what they find important in their career such as work life balance and travel obligations. Universum representatives Jonas Barck and Christopher Campellone presented the 2011 results to NSCS partners, offering additional insight into the comparison between general student responses and NSCS responses.

### NSCS Awards Outstanding Scholar Award to Community College Students

The NSCS Outstanding Scholar Award is presented to four community college students to help meet their tuition needs. Congratulations to the 2011 Outstanding Scholar Award recipients---Klenton Perry (Hillsborough Community College), Trang Ngoc To Kieu (Houston Community College), Sofokli Cakalli (Central Texas College) and Xiaowei Sun (Northern Virginia Community College). Each recipient has been awarded \$500 toward tuition costs.

Community college students often balance work, school and other priorities and for Klenton Perry, receiving this scholarship has helped him and his family continue to pursue their dreams. "[The scholarship] has helped tremendously; any type of funding really goes a long way to allow us to do anything. My brother and sister are also involved in activities and this scholarship allows them to pursue their dreams and goals more than if the \$500 wasn't there, it better our whole family," Perry said.

The Outstanding Scholar Award has also made a difference for Xiaowei Sun. "After I got the Outstanding Scholar Award, I feel I have more confidence," Sun said. "It really has made a difference in my life. When I knew only four students could get this award, I almost wanted to give up. But after I received this award, I found out that even though there maybe some difficulty, we still have to try and never give up."

"Never give up" is an important message that Perry believes community college students should keep in mind. "Whenever I think of community college students a lot of them are working full time, a lot of them have lives already," Perry said. "I encourage them to keep on going forward and don't let the label of community college hinder them in going after their dreams."

For more information about NSCS scholarships, visit <http://www.nscs.org/scholarships/>