



Landmark College Named National Co-Champions in Case Study Contest

By Peter Cherney and David Mulholland

On April 13, Beta Alpha Epsilon received the great news at Phi Theta Kappa's International Convention in Nashville, Tennessee. It was announced that the Chapter's Honor's Topic Case Study Challenge entry, **THE WAR IN IRAQ AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FUTURE**, won. Officer-at-large Andrew Fielding, who was present when the announcement was made, comments: "It was such a prestigious award and there were so many entrants, I didn't think we had a chance. I saw Co-Advisor David Mulholland in shock so I thought maybe we'd both just misheard it since they didn't have it on the big board immediately." There were four national winners in all, two of which were individual entrants, making Landmark College one of only two college winners nationally!

In March, the Chapter entered the 2006-2008 Case Study Challenge – a USA TODAY/Phi Theta Kappa-sponsored contest in which PTK chapters write articles and discussion questions on contemporary issues relevant to the **GOLD, GODS AND GLORY: THE GLOBAL DYNAMICS OF POWER** honors study topic. In fact the writing process took six weeks, with a team of six officers contributing: Paul Reid, Peter Cherney, Kevin Tuszl, Andrew Fielding, Derryck Veloso, and E. Bruno Hirschfeld-Stoler. The contest required students to review USA Today newspapers for the prior eight months for stories relevant to their



Phi Theta Kappa Chapter officers display USA TODAY Case Study top national prize certificate at celebration dinner in Nashville, TN (left to right) 2nd VP Skylar Fritz, President Paul Reid, Secretary Kevin Tuszl, Officer-at-Large Andrew Fielding

topic. Then, they needed to write a 500-word essay on the selected articles, including quotes and facts, citing both properly. The group needed to construct a 200-word summary of the future implications of their topic, the Iraq War. Students also selected a required number of books, articles, and films for a supplemental information guide, along with a list of discussion questions that they devised. Each officer contributed to the effort with its many components.

Vice President for Scholarship Peter Cherney masterfully crafted the Summary Statement and Future Implications section, while other officers devised the discussion questions and found media resources for further study. Peter's attention to word selection successfully tied in each section of written work with a similar voice and rich descriptions. Former Sgt. Paul Reid, Chapter President, served as technical advisor, helping the content and focus reflect the view from the battlefield as well as from the classroom. Derryck Veloso helped the project to reflect the conceptual and practical concerns of American credibility as promoting democracy among individuals who have only seen US soldiers on television. Bruno Hirschfeld-Stoler emphasized the economic difficulties ahead for today's college students, who will have to pay war debts through taxes while paying students loans. Beta Alpha Epsilon faculty co-advisor David Mulholland played an instrumental role, refining and organizing the various components of the Chapter's Case Study by asking the group questions for clarification and helping them to attend to the contest's rules.

The Chapter was richly rewarded for its efforts; among two-year colleges in the United States, the award is arguably the most significant for a journalistic piece. In addition to receiving \$500, the Chapter will see its Case Study used in K-12 schools across America as part of a USA TODAY education program. In the spirit of the honors study topic on power, the Chapter donated a portion of its winnings to East Coast Assistance Dogs to help empower those with limited mobility. Congratulations to Beta Alpha Epsilon for yet another major achievement! (See www.usatodayeducate.com/challenge/ed-ptkcsclandmark.cfm for the winning entry).

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