

# THE ATHENIAN

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**Big Dog Ranch Rescue**  
**Palm Beach State  
College**  
*Submitted by the Delta Omicron*



On the 28<sup>th</sup> of November, the Phi Theta Kappa Delta Omicron chapter collaborated with the Lake Worth Student Government Association to volunteer at the Big Dog Ranch Rescue center in Loxahatchee Groves, Florida. Because of the continuing threat of the coronavirus, only 15 people were allowed to attend the event. We followed the COVID-19 protocols by socially distancing and wearing masks while at the Ranch. The goal was to help the center care for dogs that were previously in abusive and neglectful homes and brought there in hopes of finding a new home with a caring family. The students who participated were tasked to complete different assignments that included dog photographing, walking, bathing, as well as cleaning the rooms in the bunkhouses which they reside.



Those that walked the dogs, for example, walked them around a moderately-sized lake with areas for them to sit if they needed to and stations to place waste that is collected. While there was an enclosed space for the dogs to run around and play with each other, it gave them the freedom to move about in a more spacious area. Cleaning the bunkhouses was important because it gave the dogs a clean environment to live in until they are adopted. All the activities that we participated in served to help improve the dogs' way of life and to help the Ranch maintain a tidy place for them.

Volunteering at the Big Dog Ranch Rescue center was a very good experience because during our orientation prior to attending to the dogs, we learned about how we can help animals that have been abused and neglected in the past find a new home with people that would care for them. While it took some of us out of our comfort zones, it was good to help make sure that the dogs were well cared for. The volunteers from both the Delta Omicron chapter and the Student Government Association have enjoyed it immensely, so much so that we will be planning to make this a regularly occurring service event. Working at the ranch showed us that it is still possible to make a difference, even during a pandemic. That, we did!

# The Workshop Series

Submitted by the Beta Pi Theta Chapter- Miami Dade College, Hialeah Campus

This past year, the Beta Pi Theta Chapter hosted a series of Scholarship Workshops featuring different speakers who highlighted topics such as *Writing the Perfect Scholarship Essay*, *Asking for a Letter of Recommendation*, and *How PTK Can Help You Win Scholarships*. It was a huge success, and over 140 students took advantage of this training. We had guest speakers who were past scholarship winners such as Victor Garnica and Julie DeLeon. We had more students apply through the Phi Theta Kappa Website than ever before. For the first time, we had students apply for the Workforce Development Scholarship, which was awesome! Students were able to attend the workshops live, or they could access the recordings later when it was convenient for them. If students could not make it live, they could also send in questions ahead of time that the guests would answer. Some other guests that we had were Jessica Garnica who is an admissions advisor at

Nova Southeastern University. She was able to tell students what admission representatives are looking for in an application essay as well as how the experiences with Phi Theta Kappa can boost their probability of getting into their dream school.

Because of how popular this workshop series was this year, we are planning on hosting a series called “A Day in the Life” where community members will host the workshop and explain to students what they need to go into certain fields. We held our first one with a former chapter president, Jeffrey Romeu (class of 2014) who discussed jobs in government and politics. Jeffrey prepared a presentation highlighting various jobs, their pay, what degrees are best suited, what “A Day in the Life” looks like, and how Phi Theta Kappa helped him to attend George Washington University, become a Salzburg Global Fellow, to gain a 2-year paid Internship with the United States State Department, and much more. Our next guest host will be Dr. Terry who will discuss employment in the medical field. It is sure to be informative!



*Nova Southeastern University admissions advisor Jessica Garnica guiding students to successful transfer and scholarship applications.*



*Former Beta Pi Theta Chapter President Victor Garnica discussing his successful Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship experience.*



*Former Beta Pi Theta President Jeffrey Romeu hosting A Day in the Life Series for Political / Governmental Careers*

# Team building During the Pandemic

Palm Beach State College



After COVID-19 emerged, the lives of many college students changed abruptly. Consequently, the President of the Delta Omicron chapter had to step down from that position. The E-Board shared the responsibilities of the President equally among the Vice-Presidents to keep the chapter moving forward. Members of the E-Board demonstrated high amounts of dedication, leadership, and communication that resulted in positive outcomes. For instance, the E-Board chose to split the Honors in Action project into several parts, having different people responsible for a piece of the project. As a result, the project got finished quickly with excellence. The members of the E-Board were committed and organized. Without a president, the E-Board members worked hard to complete tasks before deadlines by effectively communicating among themselves. For instance, the chapter had held several virtual meetings almost every week to make sure the chapter was moving forward with its plans. One of the Vice-Presidents organized and led the virtual meetings in place of the President who stepped down. Another Vice-President led the orientations and inductions.

The other members of the E-Board also contributed to the chapter by doing things beyond their original responsibilities. E-Board members also have other duties besides Phi Theta Kappa, like their education and family obligations. Therefore, Vice-Presidents have one or two coordinators that helped them to complete their tasks so that nobody would be overwhelmed with their responsibilities. Without the admirable efforts made by the Vice-Presidents and Coordinators, the chapter could have descended into chaos without a President. By sharing responsibilities and working together, the chapter-maintained student engagement at a high level, connecting students to many opportunities and providing a meaningful experience. In conclusion, the chapter successfully adapted and overcame problems present in the modern-day by working more collectively. Thus, providing students an environment where they can become more exceptional leaders and scholars.

