

# OKLAHOMA BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS OF AMERICA

Volume 5, Issue 1

OKLAHOMA MEMBERSHIP

January 30, 2006

## Busy, Busy People

### • *BPA State Officers*

#### By Sara Potter

State BPA Secretary

I just wanted to update you on my B.P.A. activities. I went to Yukon High School on November 15. Kyle Stein, Southwest District Vice-President and Public Relations Coordinator, accompanied me in this chapter visit. We were present in all 7 of Mr. Duncan's classes telling the students what B.P.A. has done for us. I hope that we encouraged some students to join B.P.A. to find out what it has in store for them. I would also like to take this opportunity to encourage anyone who is interested in joining our local chapter to come see myself or Mrs. Mitchell. There are great leadership opportunities, and it is a lot of fun. The State Officer Team will be very busy the next few months getting ready for our Spring Leadership Conference in March.

## Fall Leadership Conference

### By Dustin Devers

State BPA Reporter

This year's Fall Leadership Conference went great. There were a variety of workshops for students, advisors, and entire chapters to participate in. We were glad to be joined for the second year with HOSA, Health Occupation Students of America. Together we had a great conference with over 3,000 in attendance. For those members who were unable to attend, our keynote speaker this year was Stewart Kennedy. He is a great motivational speaker. He is a graduate from Oklahoma State University, and the inventor of the peanut butter slice. At the end of the conference we announced the new Oklahoma BPA State Pin design. Furthermore, we announced the winner of this year's state-wide community service project, and the first name to appear on "the hands that connect the communities of HOSA and BPA" plaque was Prague High School BPA Chapter. This outstanding chapter



**Stewart Kennedy**, the 2005 Fall Leadership Conference Keynote Speaker and inventor of PB Slices. For more information about PB Slices visit [www.pbslices.com](http://www.pbslices.com), or to learn more about Mr. Kennedy's speaking profession go to [www.yournextspeaker.com](http://www.yournextspeaker.com).

brought an amazing 150 coats to help Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Business Professionals of America State Officers would again like to extend their offer of help to every chapter this year.

## Make Your Mark

### • *2006 National Leadership Convention in Orlando, Florida*

#### By Dustin Devers

State BPA Reporter

BPA is proud to announce that NLC 2006 is going to be held in Orlando, Florida, at the Dolphin & Swan Resort. And the question at hand is,

"How Will You Make Your Mark?" – the national theme for this year. Remember it is never too early to start preparing for state and national competitions. [www.bpa.org](http://www.bpa.org)



**2006 National Leadership Conference Theme Logo**

## Where Do You Fit?

- *This Issues Inspirational*

**By Kyria Metz**

State BPA Chaplain

I have just one question – “Where Do You Fit?” As young adults and growing individuals we have a real desire to “fit in”. And let’s face it; we do some of the strangest things to achieve that. What is the real motivation for dying our hair pink or piercing our noses? We want to look cool, and comply with a set of standards that we set not only to please ourselves but most of all our peers.

I’m Kyria Metz, Oklahoma BPA State Chaplain here to congratulate you for achieving success! If you are reading this, you fit in BPA! The motto for our Fall Conference this year was: “Don’t be puzzled! Where do you fit?” See, BPA offers its members a customized place to fit. But imagine putting together a giant jigsaw puzzle, getting down to the last piece, and have it be missing! The picture would not be complete. That is BPA without you! Together we make a great organization that benefits each individual. In BPA you have the opportunity to expand your knowledge of the business world through field trips, guest speakers, training sessions, and community service. You have access to professionals who can help you develop leadership skills. And you get a great start on the ever-important process of networking with other business professionals.

You know what happens when an old pair of jeans no longer fits. They get packed up and sent off. Don’t let that be you! Don’t be lost in the crowd of students who don’t know where they belong. “Don’t be puzzled! Where do you fit?” BPA! That’s where!

## New OK-BPA Website

- *Lending a Helping Hand*

**By Dustin Devers**

State BPA Reporter

The state staff and officers are pleased to announce that Gordon Cooper Technology Center is giving [www.okbpa.org](http://www.okbpa.org) a needed “face-lift” or

update. The website will provide more user friendly technology, and have a new exciting look. So, check the new site out and see what you think.

---

## Membership: Why Join BPA?

- *A Student’s Perspective of BPA*

**By Katie Foust**

Ripley BPA Member

Submitted Respectively By:

Heather McIntire, State NW Membership Vice President

The new craze sweeping the nation is a student organization called BPA. What is BPA you ask? It stands for Business Professionals of America. It is an organization that helps student’s build their business skills in areas such as leadership, communication, and many areas of technology. Not only does is help with these skills, but also, these skills look great on anyone’s résumé.

Now that you know a little about BPA, the next question you might ask is, “Why should I join?” Well, I can give you several reasons why. First, if you’re interested in business, office careers, or even video production, Business Professionals of America can help you get started. There are many contest opportunities that can help train you in so many different aspects. For example, Word Processing Fundamentals –

this contest tests you on how well your Word Processor skills are. As you probably already know, Microsoft Word and other word processing applications are used everyday in any office around the world. Secondly, BPA wants to see every local chapter to complete some sort of community enrichment or community service project. So if you are interested in community service this is the prefect organization for you. And last but not least; BPA will look great on your résumé.

I bet I can guess what’s on you mind. “How do I join, such a great organization?” Well, that’s simple Just talk to you local Business or IT instructor about joining.

BPA is a great opportunity. Why haven’t you joined yet?

## Winning Design

- *The Oklahoma BPA Pin*



At the 2005 Fall Leadership Conference, present chapters and their members had the chance to choose the Oklahoma State Business Professionals of America Pin, which would be traded at nationals for other states' pins. And this year's winner comes from Jared Svendgard from Green Country Technology Center in Okmulgee. Congratulations and thanks to everyone who participated and submitted a pin design.

## An Active Chapter

- *Mangum BPA Chapter*

**By Sara Potter**  
State Secretary

To spotlight our local B.P.A. chapter, they recently joined with F.C.C.L.A. and hosted the Breast Cancer Awareness Luncheon. I was present representing Oklahoma Business Professionals of America State Officer Team. Other Chapter members who participated were Ebony Trevino, Kassidy McDaniel, Brittany Yarborough, Hayley Mitchell, Michelle Porter, Kassi Kendall, Haylee Kenmore, Jaimie Rockhold, Lori Lutts, and Kaleigh Rolfson, and Chris Ramirez.

## “Coming Your Way” Tour

- *State Officers Meeting the Chapters*

**By Sara Potter**  
State Secretary

The state officer team is “Coming Your Way.” This is a new idea that the officers came up with to find, meet, and help new starting and lesser active chapters. We want everyone to have a great time with BPA, and getting to know the chapters is the first step.

We have been planning and scheduling for a long time now, and believe that some date may have been penciled in by not totally confirmed. We are looking forward to meeting these chapters' advisors and members.

---

## Better to Give than Receive

- *NTC helping children at Christmas*

**By Carl Bell**  
State President

The students at Northeast Technology Center have been busy giving instead of receiving this holiday season. They have been busy wrapping gifts for the under privileged children of Delaware County. The Angel Tree has been a tradition for ten years at NTC. Starting the first year the doors opened at the Kansas campus.

Gifts are donated from local businesses, faculty member, and members of the NTC BPA chapter. The gifts are then donated to the Department of Human Services. A faculty member had this to say, “This project has really pulled our community closer.” The program has shown NTC what the holiday season is all about, giving.

---

## Becoming a Great Leader

- *His leadership accelerated with BPA*

**By Daniel Devers**  
Meridian Technology Center BPA Member

As a student in junior high and high school I knew I wanted the ability to lead a group of people and influence them through knowledge I would gain from classes in high school. But, I soon learned I was limited to just the classroom. BPA opened a new door of opportunities. Now as a senior and armed with the experience

gained from BPA, I am able to provide information to students about how BPA can better everyone to be a great leader enhanced for business. So take advantage of all the opportunities that BPA offers BPA will give more chances to learn than a classroom experience ever will.

## Thoughts of FLC

- *Ripley BPA's experience*

**By Sarah Balcer**

State BPA Parliamentarian

Ripley's BPA chapter has recounted their experience at Fall Leadership Conference from the awesome key note speaker, Mr. Kennedy, to the unforgettable workshops. The chapter was busy gaining leadership skills while bonding with their fellow members. The members enjoyed a variety of workshops. The officers learned to help better prepare themselves for their leadership positions for their local office. Everything that the officers learned from the workshops and from Mr. Kennedy's awesome message, they could take back to the Ripley chapter to help make it more successful, and hopefully to gain more members. The chapter agreed that this year's conference was much more organized than the previous years. Also, the separation of the HOSA general session and the BPA general session saved on confusion. Overall, the conference was a hit with the Ripley BPA members.

## What Happened?

- *Reflections on the 2005 FLC adventure*

**By Nancy Staudt**

State NE Membership Vice President

The Oklahoma Fall Leadership was held on Tuesday, October 11, 2005 at Oklahoma City. The theme, "Where Do You Fit?" seemed to have an impact on not only the BPA and HOSA high school students, but the adults as well. Keynote Speaker, Stewart Kennedy told the audience about his struggles in life through a speech he called "Get Up! Get Over! Get On!"

Workshop Sessions included: Officer Leadership Training-Stewart Kennedy, Advisor's Forum AM-HOSA, Advisor's Forum PM-BPA, Money Matters-Shelly Wagner and Markesha Polk, Dress For Success-Stephanie McSparrin, Self Defense-Chance Fine, Identity Theft-Mitch Davis, Relax, Recover, Renew-Dr. Laura Gruntmeir, Credit 101-AM-Marvin Ginn/PM-Randy Kimmel,

True Colors- Tom Manske and Susan Meill, Building-Camilla Riley, Chapter Fundraising-Robin Counce, Etiquette-Debbie Sharp, Service Project Ideas-AM-Alzheimer's Assoc. with Mark Fried/PM-Special Olympics with Cathi Morris and Special Recognition Awards-AM-Diane Duffy/PM-Nellwyn Carlton.

The top three Pin Designs chosen out of the State of Oklahoma were created by Jared Svengard of Morris, Charlotte Robinson of Morris, and Brock Rice of Preston. All three students attend P.M. Information Technology class at Okmulgee Green Country Technology Center and out of the three, Jared Svengard won. His design featured a tornado and the popular logo "Make Your Mark".

## Christmas Joy

- *Spreading joy to kids*

**By Codi Carpenter**

State SW Membership VP / Historian

The Gordon Cooper Technology Center's local BPA chapter helped the Santa Kids program. The members helped by wrapping gifts for less fortunate children. The members learned to appreciate what they had and enjoyed helping others.

## In the Spotlight

- *An officer tells of his experiences*

**By Kyle Stein**

State SE Membership VP / Public Relations Coordinator

I am the Southwest Membership Vice President and Public Relations Coordinator, and this year I have had the opportunity to travel to various cities in Oklahoma such as: Chickasha, El Reno, U.S. Grant High School in Oklahoma City, McAlester, and Yukon. I assisted in the chapter's elections and installed all the officers for the schools. At Yukon,

I visited with the students about Fall and Spring Leadership Conferences, National Conference, and the roles and responsibilities of being an officer. I also serve as a student Ambassador at Canadian Valley Technology Center in Chickasaw. This allows and me to visit with students about Canadian Valley Technology Center and Business Professionals of America.