



# Arizona SAHUARO

VOLUME 59, NUMBER 3 • JUNE 2010

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International – For Key Women Educators

## General Session Highlights

The General Session of the 2010 Omicron State Convention opened with President Judy Strohmeyer presiding. Opening thoughts from Judy Chacon (Chi) and Virginia Mountain (Chi) warmed our hearts as we all recalled the humor of students' answers to test questions.

Music Chairman Marcia Whipkey (Alpha Epsilon) led us in singing the convention theme song, "It's A Wonderful World." Convention co-chair Jan Smith (Alpha Epsilon) welcomed members.

State Recording Secretary Rachel Wear (Alpha Rho) announced that 190 members from 30 chapters were in attendance. State Corresponding Secretary Alice Reule (Alpha Delta) shared correspondence including a request for dissolution from Alpha Omega Chapter.

State Treasurer Kathy Green (Alpha Delta) reminded members of the state dues increase for active members to \$25.00 and to \$10.00 for reserve members. Membership Chairman Janet Vickers reported an increase of 11 members since last year.

Personal Growth and Services Chair Saroj Jagernauth (Alpha Iota) reported 7,489 hours of volunteer work for "Collaborative Connections."

Professional Affairs Chair Sandra Breece (Alpha Chi) reported a new feature called, "The Spotlight Project" will honor members in the *Sabuar*.

Vice-President Judy Vincent (Alpha) presented an ad hoc committee motion to establish

the Mariposa Project for the purpose of assisting Costa Rican members. The motion failed.

Pearl Nancarrow (Delta) shared closing thoughts.

Alice Reule (Alpha Delta)  
Omicron State Recording Secretary

## Opening of the 2010 Convention

Omicron State President Judy Strohmeyer (Mu) opened the convention with this year's theme, "Let Your Dreams Take Flight." International Communications Administrator Linda Eller brought greetings from International President Carolyn Rants and the vision of change in DKG.

David Duarte, Arts Curriculum Instruction Specialist for the Deer Valley Unified School District, brought us the entertainment for the evening: guitar, drum, keyboard, and saxophone music played by his former students. David himself was a kindergarten student of our member, Lori Good, 36 years ago.

Lori Good (Alpha Alpha)

## Winners All!

Individual raffle winners included:

### 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Baskets

"All You Need to Blossom"  
Susan Hergenhan (Lambda)

### "Silver and Gold"

Marty Nedom (Alpha Zeta)

### The De Grazia print

Karen Valentine (Eta)

### Chapter winners for attendance:

In-area highest attendance  
Alpha Epsilon with 17 members

Out-of-area highest attendance  
Lambda with 11 members

Omicron State was a winner as members supported the sale of purses to increase the Latin America Fund and the Purple Elephant sale helped with convention expenses.

## Omicron Achievement Awards to Two: Kathy Green and Julie Berkel

**Kathy Green** (Alpha Delta) has served in a variety of roles at all three levels of Delta Kappa Gamma. The programs she presents are helpful and informative to those learning about technology, communication, and finance. You often see her articles in *The Arizona Sabuar*



Achievement Award Winner  
Kathy Green



Achievement Award Winner  
Julie Berkel

**Julie Berkel's** (Chi) service to Delta Kappa Gamma includes office and committee leadership in her chapter. She presents informative programs at all three levels of the Society and contributes articles to *The Arizona Sabuar*.

Of her many contributions to Omicron State, Julie

is proudest of her work on *Our Treasured Past, Vol. IV*. According to the nomination letter, "She made the booklet not only the historical record of State activities in an accessible and thorough manner but also incorporated personal information on the members in Arizona and their accomplishments and provided a brief glimpse into the workings of each chapter at the time."

Mary Ann Liddle (Lambda), Chairman  
Omicron State Achievement Award Committee

**AKT**  
...promotes personal and professional growth of women educators and excellence in education.

## *Pura Vida!*

### Dream with Judy!

A message from Omicron State President Judy Strohmeyer (Mu)



Omicron State  
President Judy  
Strohmeyer

The 2010 Convention soared the weekend of April 23–25. Our membership let their dreams take flight. Incoming chapter officers received valuable

training Friday night, while others were treated to the jazz quartet, now dubbed Duarte's Charming Princes. These students are an example of the value of music education. Linda

Eller brought greetings from headquarters and provided the impetus on becoming a more technologically savvy organization and expanding our significant influence on a global basis.

Saturday's executive session began on time. The vote to expand our support for Costa Rica State and establish an educational project with them was defeated. The motion to establish special achievement awards for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration was passed.

At the Saturday luncheon, a state scholarship was presented to Mary Powell (Rho) and the Friend of Education Award in absentia to Arizona State Legislator, the Honorable David Lujan. At that point the luncheon and Forum became one to accommodate the schedules of the presenters. The membership demonstrated their teacher flexibility and rolled with the continually changing program which ended with a very thoughtful discussion about alternating conventions with Fall Workshops.

The processional honoring past Omicron State presidents, outgoing and incoming chapter presidents started the banquet saluting Achievement Award winners: Kathy Green (Alpha Delta) and Julie Berkel (Chi) and Linda Eller, our international representative. The evening ended when Forrest Dougherty, storyteller, shared his humorous insights into life.

The hospitality suite was never without guests and thought-provoking conversation. Thanks to Rho chapter members.

By noon on Sunday, most attendees were on the road, they had connected with treasured friends of old and new found comrades, enjoyed personal and professional growth through the workshop experiences, and enjoyed the Purple Elephant Raffle and Purse sale.

We did let our dreams take flight. Twenty-seven members turned in their surveys. The need for more workshops related to cultural diversity, travel, health and teaching techniques were suggested along with continuation of assigned seating. ♥

### Chapter President Leadership Training



Dena Martin,  
presenter at the  
Chapter President's  
Training

Twenty-nine chapter presidents attended a five-hour leadership training session at the 2010 Omicron State Convention.

The training team included icebreakers by Mary Holloway (Alpha); Leadership/Presidential Duties by Terri Ackland (Zeta); Organizational Structure by Kathy Green (Alpha Delta); Resources by Dena Martin (Zeta) and Diane

Sheets (Alpha Beta); Delegating by Sue Crumrine (Alpha Eta); and Parliamentary Procedures by Diane Sheets.

One participant said that she had not looked forward to attending the training for five hours; "however, was I ever wrong! You ladies kept me busy, informed, and full of good laughs."

Dena Martin (Zeta), Chairman  
Omicron State Leadership Committee

### Finding Your Way – Online

Where can you go when you don't know what you don't know? Incoming Membership Chairmen and Second Vice-Presidents learned some of the tricks of the trade to help with the many expectations of their new positions: honor members who have gone, celebrate current members, entice new ones, and still keep up with the non-people portions of the Society.

To find many of the materials, wend your way online. Order the new brochures, #9336 Marketing the Society (Prospective Members – "You and Us") and #9322 Society Membership (Get Involved – "One and All"): Go to [dkg.org](http://dkg.org); click on *Library* in the grey horizontal bar, then click on *Resources*, left margin in red, and finally Forms, also left margin in red. Brochure is free but shipping and handling have a minimal charge; for example, \$2.00 for 1-25 copies.

Forms due next February can be found in the same location. As one chapter president said, "If I had known this was so easy, I would have done it this way a long time ago."

Take time to browse while you are online: Under *Resources* you will also find Ceremonies, including almost everything from the red *Ceremonies* book, to supplemental readings. Has your chapter tried some of the Recommended responsive readings? Look at the results of the Successful Chapter Practices Survey and the Successful Chapter Model. What can your chapter celebrate? Scan the many ideas on Dr. Beverly Helms' "Create the Buzz" newsletters; the connection with members throughout the world is evident.

Janet Vickers (Omega)  
Omicron State Second Vice President

### Collaborative Connections...YES!

The Personal Growth and Services Committee congratulates the Omicron State membership for an amazing year of mentoring, impacting lives, and empowering dreams to take flight! Yes . . . 7,489 hours of volunteering hours logged thus far.

Please continue to log your hours and expand your endeavor of education into the community, within and beyond the schools. All mentoring/volunteering hours accumulated in May 2010 through April 15, 2011 will be showcased at the 2011 Omicron State Convention.

Chapter presidents, please take digital pictures of your members during their mentoring activities and send them to me at [sarojag@cox.net](mailto:sarojag@cox.net) New tally sheets will be sent to you to record your hours spent in collaborative connections. Our goal is to quadruple our hours by next April. Yes, we can!

Saroj Jagernauth (Alpha Iota), Chairman  
Omicron State Personal Growth and Services Committee



International representative Linda Eller with  
Janet Vickers and Judy Vinson

### First Vice-Presidents Training

The Program of Work Committee presented the training workshop for incoming chapter first vice-presidents.

Professional Affairs Chairman Sandy Breece (Alpha Chi) informed participants about the Spotlight Project. Women in the Arts Co-Chairmen Sharon Willy (Alpha Eta) and Diane Gara-Weiner (Alpha Delta) shared ideas for fundraisers and chapter activities.

Music Chairman Marcia Whipkey (Alpha Epsilon) provided a packet of music. Personal Growth and Services Chairman Saroj Jagernauth (Alpha Iota) helped members create a floral representation of their chapter's Collaborative Connections projects.

Mary McNichols (Alpha Rho), Research Chairman, shared the results of a survey of chapters regarding programs, Collaborative Connections projects, and ideas for fundraisers. Legislative Chairman Lori Good (Alpha Alpha) spoke about the Forum's trip to Washington, DC and reported on legislative news in Arizona.

Program of Work Chairman Judy Vinson (Alpha) provided a packet of program ideas, a checklist for yearbooks, directed a brainstorming session for sharing chapter programs, and created a constellation of "idea stars."

Judy Vinson (Alpha)  
Omicron State First Vice-President

## Chapter News

**Phi Chapter** (Mesa area) paid the \$35 convention registration fee for members who worked at the convention registration table. The chapter awarded a \$300 grant to a 51-year-old mother/wife who has returned to school after she and her husband were laid off.

**Alpha Beta Chapter** (West Valley) toured the Sharlot Hall Museum in Prescott for their March meeting and the Phoenix Art Museum for their April meeting.

**Alpha Delta Chapter** (Phoenix area) attended a Dinner/Theater on their February meeting date and the Japanese Tea Garden for their March meeting.

**Xi Chapter** (Tucson) visited Tohono Chul Park and Tea Room for their April meeting.

**Lambda Chapter** (Tucson) held their March meeting at the Pistor Middle School, where Fine Arts Grant recipients presented the program. Included were two art students, a cellist, and a vocalist.

**Kappa** (Safford area) and **Epsilon** (Cochise county) Chapters held a joint meeting March 6, 2010 at The Plaza Restaurant in Wilcox, AZ.

**Eta Chapter** (Prescott area) held their February meeting at Barnes & Noble Bookstore in Prescott. Employees shared information about books for children and adults. Their March meeting, held at the Mountain Artist Guild, honored four talented artists from Prescott High School.

**Alpha Alpha** (West Valley) held their 18<sup>th</sup> annual yard sale in February. This is their only fund-raiser.

**Iota Chapter** (Yuma) held their February meeting at the Learning Ladder, which offers targeted tutoring for students after determining the ways they learn the best and the level at which to begin instruction.

**Upsilon Chapter** (Tucson) will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Saturday, June 5, 2010, at the home of Florence Foster. Among the highlights will be a tribute to three charter members who will attend, a presentation of Upsilon Chapter history and a buffet luncheon complete with birthday cake.

**Alpha Beta Chapter** (West Valley) initiated three on May 1, 2010. All three members taught or are teaching at Orangewood School in the Washington School District. ♥

## Legislative News

Happenings at the Arizona State Capitol this year have been troubling with the budget cuts and the different issues affecting education, children, and the lives of so many. So what can we do? We can advocate! We can educate! We

can put people in office whose values align with our own—regardless of their political affiliation..

It is imperative that we get involved in the upcoming elections however we can. If you are interested in helping with specific politicians, please do so. We have our own members running for offices who could use our support. Keep abreast of current legislative actions and voice your opinions and experiences to legislators and others.

The future of Arizona's children . . . and our own . . . is at stake. One voice can make a difference and we are many.

*Lori Good (Alpha Alpha), Chairman  
Omicron State Legislative Committee*

## Miss Arizona Thanks DKG Teachers



*Miss Arizona Savanna Troupe and her former teacher Kathryn Payan*

Savanna Troupe, Miss Arizona, graced the stage of the convention just long enough to elevate the spirits of each teacher in attendance. She thanked them for their service to the children of Arizona and revealed that she owes her crown and her teaching certificate to all the teachers who mentored her through school.

One of those teachers was her escort, Kathryn Payan (Sigma), her Spanish language teacher at Greenway Middle School.

We have an advocate for education in our Miss Arizona.

*Kathryn Payan, (Sigma)*

## Alpha Chapter Project Jared Boxes

The goal of the Jared Boxes Project is to lift the spirits of chronically ill children. The boxes symbolize the importance of play and are filled with well wishes, hope, and love.

A Jared Box is a shoebox size plastic storage box filled with small gifts, toys, cards, and games. Each box contains items selected for a specific age and gender.

They provide a special diversion for young patients as they receive chemotherapy and other medical treatment.

The project was started in 2001 by the children of Our Lady of Victory School in State College, PA to honor their classmate and friend, Jared. He was a brave little boy who battled cancer with courage and faith that continues to inspire us all.

Alpha Chapter has delivered 60 boxes to the University Hospital. Staff members from the hospital write, "The boxes are a great way to put a smile on their faces after an unpleasant procedure or even just when they are here alone with no family to visit. Thank you so much!"

*Gloria Day (Alpha)*

## Omicron State 2010

*Written by Jayne Brainard, Texas*

As the sun reflects sparkling on my window,  
I reflect on the sparkling experiences of  
Omicron Convention,  
Greetings float through the air as balloons  
pumped with air,  
Hugs engulf sisters as butterflies caressing  
the soul.

Activities are varied and opportunities  
enlightening:  
Shopping, donating for raffles, and gathering  
for rehearsals,  
The entertainment was fun; the meals  
delicious,  
And, yes, there actually was a time for  
business.

Past and present business was discussed and  
decided,  
Training for new officers brought clarity and  
challenge,  
Learning of the women of the past and  
present led to the future.  
Each of us had choices and all sessions were  
a delight.

To sum it all up would take volumes of words.  
To explain the pageantry, gradations, and  
celebration

Would fill a thesaurus and still be lacking

For the words of the heart can only be translated into one phrase, Key Women Educators.

## A Note from Past State President Dr. Nancy Noll:

"Many thanks to all of you who said a special prayer, sent a get well card, or just kept me in your thoughts during my recent surgery. It was greatly appreciated and, I know, helped to speed my recovery. Thanks again."

*Nancy*

## Review of the Convention by Alpha Xi Member (Sun City)



At left, Alpha Xi members at convention Phyllis Brady, Jane Chartrand, Ruthann Welander and Harriet Howard

At right, Zura Dotton Workshop Presenter



Four Alpha Xi Chapter officers attended the Omicron State Convention.

Workshop sessions were well presented—the first one offering four choices: (1) Zura Dolton, from the University of Arizona, on Kazakhstan, (2) Maria Paz Gomez, a doctoral student from the U of A, on “Themes in Young Children’s Writing,” (3) Janet Blum, Fine Arts Coordinator from the Scottsdale Schools, on “Integrating the Arts in the Curriculum.” Or (4) Jo Regenold’s update on the proposed changes to the International documents.

In the second time session, three choices were available: (1) Mary Lou Palmer, an

elementary school principal who was in the Fulbright Administrators’ Exchange Program spoke on “Argentina: A Dream Come True,” (2) Linda Eller, the guest from International, presented “Beyond the DKG Dream” and shared her interest in the “techie” world, (3) Mary Palsma presented Kathleen Shroyer and Virginia Puyac in vignettes as Fanny Farmer and Georgia O’Keefe. These gave us an example of programs for use in Women’s History Month.

All these programs received an A+ from the Alpha Xi members, who came away with new perspectives.

Phyllis Brand (Alpha Xi)  
Chapter President



Scholarship winner Mary Powell with Scholarship Committee Chairman Kathy Houtcooper

## Omicron State Scholarship Award

The Omicron State Scholarship Committee presented the Omicron State scholarship to Mary Powell (Rho) at the Birthday Luncheon.

Mary is a doctoral student at ASU. On Friday, she passed her oral comps and is now ready to complete her dissertation. She has taught English for ten years at North High School in the Phoenix Union District.

Mary says, “The scholarship will enable me to complete my studies.” In the future she looks forward to teaching aspiring English teachers at the university level and writing a book.

The Scholarship Committee encourages members to apply for next year’s Omicron State scholarships by February 2011.

Kathi Houtcooper (Alpha Iota), Chairman  
Omicron State Scholarship Committee

### A note from Linda Eller

Dear Omicron State members,

Greeting me at my arrival in Arizona were new friends, blue skies, and new experiences. I so enjoyed my visit to your state convention and lifetime experiences. I was able to attend the afternoon photo journey into the Desert Botanical Gardens. I came prepared with two cameras charged and ready to work.

The training events scheduled for incoming chapter leaders on Friday night offered many sessions of new learning and networking.

Saturday was a full day with convention and workshop sessions. The banquet in the evening allowed members to share in fellowship and learn a few new things.

The highlight of your convention was the Lei of Friendship breakfast following the Celebration of Life ceremony. Your tradition of the parading of leis by chapter presidents and having World Fellowship recipients present helped all see how important this program is as we impact education worldwide.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Spokane.

With warmest regards,  
Linda Eller

### Lei of Friendship Breakfast

Members attending the Lei of Friendship Breakfast found chairs covered with leis and tables with information, cards to be sent to World Fellowship recipients, globes, and flags.

Each president who marched into the hall

represented a country with a World Fellowship recipient. A Power Point presentation of World Fellowship information followed. Committee members who had interviewed recipients through e-mails introduced four of them with their pictures and maps of their countries.

Past Arizona recipients Precious Biyela, attending ASU, and Maria Paz Gomez, attending U of A, were recognized with a summary of their studies and their plans for the future. Precious will be leaving this summer, and Maria Paz will be in Arizona a few more years.

Florence Foster (Upsilon) closed the program with a short ceremony by members placing leis on a globe.

Dr. Joye Sterrett (Omega), Chair  
Omicron State World Fellowships Committee

## Change is Coming!

International Ad Hoc Constitution Revision Committee member Jo Regenold (Lambda) reviewed the Society’s governing documents at a convention workshop. She de-mystified the behind-the-scenes process of discussion and consensus that the committee used to final-



Jo Regenold presented the workshop, “Change Is Coming”

ize a complete revision of the *International Constitution and Standing Rules*. The revision will be presented, discussed, amended and voted on at the 2010 International Convention.

The following are a few of the many **proposed** changes Jo itemized in her hand-out and discussed at the workshop:

- “Professional educator” eligibility for active membership is reduced from 3 to 0 years.
- “After retirement” eligibility for active membership is increased from 2 to 5 years.
- In the revision, “Chair” is used instead of “chairman.”
- The Society may be known as DKG,
- Each member may decide how to wear the Society jewelry.
- Scholarships are awarded to members; fellowships may be granted to **non-member** women educators.

Future international dues adjustment is to be based on the United States of America Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA).

These and many other revisions will update our official International Documents to contemporary usage. For a closer look at the proposed changes, members may log on to the Society website: [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org)

Mary Ann Liddle (Lambda)

## Tips on Technology

With 31 years of experience in various educational arenas, International Communications Services Administrator Linda Eller, provided members with insight into building one's personal brand.

Her workshop presentation began with the introduction of the 5 P's: persona, packaging, promotion, product, and permission. These she explained in detail, giving examples of how to apply them. Along the way she incorporated references to several books that would be helpful to members in their pursuit of developing leadership skills. Among them were The Leader's Edge by Susan Hodgekinson, Find Your Strongest Life by Marcus Buckingham, and Make A Name for Yourself by Robin Roffer.

She explained the new social network available to Delta Kappa Gamma members, which requires a member's e-mail address and the password "delta01" to access. There are currently 36 blogs on the site, and several groups have been established which members may join.

In addition, Linda cited some of the newer internet tools members might explore. They included *Linkedin.com*, which is free and interactive and allows members to establish a profile and create an online resume; *Delicious.com* is a free bookmarking tool enabling access on any computer anywhere; and *Skype*, an online telephone conferencing tool, which has both audio and video access.

Linda encouraged members to contact her at [lindae@dkg.org](mailto:lindae@dkg.org) with questions or comments.

*Shelley Smith (Lambda) Chairman  
Omicron State Communications Committee*

## "Spotlight Recognition"

The spotlight was on these members as they received certificates of recognition at the Birthday Luncheon:

**Sherry Baca** (Eta)-Mathematics teacher at Prescott High School

**Barbara Tingle** (Alpha Rho)-Kindergarten teacher at Sahuarita Primary School

**Millicent Kasun** (Epsilon)-fantastic volunteer who retired after teaching 38 years

**Sandy Parker** (Alpha Rho)-A unique volunteer for math enrichment with art instruction

**Carmen Wendt** (Chi) – Raising the standards in scholastic journalism

**Susan Ford** (Alpha Rho)-Retired librarian and member of the Santa Cruz Shoestring Players

**Desiree Raulston** (Alpha Rho)-Principal of Sopori Elementary School in Sahuarita



## BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

First Vice-President Judy Vinson (Alpha) presided at the Saturday Birthday Luncheon. The opening thought was given by Dr. Sandy Breece (Alpha Chi).

Following lunch, fifty and twenty-five-year members were recognized by Janet Vickers (Omega). New fifty-year members in attendance included Mary Pat Lansing (Epsilon), Nancy Jones (Upsilon), Ruth White (Nu), and Annieta Salsman (Omega).

State Legislative Chair Lori Good (Alpha Alpha) presented The Friend of Education Award in absentia to Representative David Lujan. Scholarship Chair Kathy Houtcooper (Alpha Iota) presented the Omicron State Scholarship to Mary Powell (Rho). Dr. Sandy Breece announced the first seven recipients of the "Spotlight Recognition" Award.

After convention announcements by Jan Smith (Alpha Epsilon), Jennifer Lichtsinn (Alpha Rho) gave the closing thought and all joined in singing "What a Wonderful World."

*Left-top: Fifty-year member Nancy Jones*

*Left-middle: Fifty-year member Ruth White*

*Left-bottom: Fifty-year member Mary Pat Lansing*

*Right: Fifty-year member Annieta Salaman (center) with her daughters Sharon Gibson and Shirley Lisciarella*



## Hour of Remembrance

On Sunday, April 25, 2010, a quiet, respectful gathering honored members who are no longer with us. Simple décor from the Omicron State collection provided an elegant setting.

Readings by some of the Membership Committee – Karen Blackstone (Alpha Epsilon), Connie Herron (Alpha Zeta), Merry Lewis (Mu), Alice Rice (Omega), and Janet Vickers (Omega) – included the traditional Ceremony of Remembrance and "A Teacher Dreams," (both available on the Society website.) A poem by Elsie Evans, "Let It Be Said of Us" was also read.

Those in attendance wrote optional remembrance cards, which will be sent to members' chapters.

Berneil Drake (Alpha Delta) honored Past Omicron State President Jinnett Kirk-Shirley.

Gloria Day (Alpha) and Kay Wilson (Alpha) on flute and Marcia Whipkey's (Alpha Epsilon) vocals added beauty and reverence.

*Janet Vickers (Omega), Chairman  
Omicron State Membership Committee*

## Themes in Young Children's Writing

The workshop was presented by Maria Paz Gomez, a past World Fellowship recipient from Chile, who is working on her Ph.D. at the U of A. Miss Gomez found the majority of the

children wrote about experiences and activities followed by nature, family, and friends. Some wrote fantasy stories and a few wrote about desires, dreams, and aspirations.

Her analysis of the writings was done without knowing the child's gender or ethnicity. After the analysis, she checked to determine commonalities.

Sometimes the gender and ethnicity were predictable, sometimes not. Girls tended to write more about families and friends, boys about activities such as working with dad. Some ethnic groups wrote more about nature and the outdoors.

The discussion at the end of the workshop emphasized the importance of letting children write in an uninhibited environment so that they are free to express themselves.

*Gloria Day (Alpha)*

## Thank You, Convention Chapters

To all the chapters that participated in our 2010 State Convention, thank you so much for all you did to make our convention so successful. Your chapters did a tremendous job and we appreciate your efforts.

*Jan Smith and Pattie Vincent (Phi)  
Co-Chairmen of the  
2010 Omicron State Convention*

## Mother Daughter Members

### Virginia Ptuyac and Jan Day



Virginia Ptuyac and Jan Day

Virginia and her daughter, Jan, are members of Sigma Chapter. They have each served two terms as chapter president, have co-chaired a state

convention, and have been recipients of the Sigma scholarship for professional development.

Virginia was born in Port Huron, Michigan. She received her B.S. degree from Bowling Green University. While in Ohio, she established the first kindergarten in Swanton.

In 1961 she moved to Phoenix and joined the Washington School District where she taught for 35 years. Virginia has been involved in legislative activities, attending the national legislative forums in Washington, D.C. and serving as the forum's Southwest Representative.

Since her retirement, Virginia has been a volunteer for Friends of the Phoenix Symphony, Beatitudes gift shop, and the Washington School District Foundation, which has just re-elected her as president.

Virginia is an enthusiastic bridge player and reads and travels extensively.

Daughter Jan was born and grew up in Ohio. She received her B.S. in Education from the University of Utah and her master's degree from ASU. She is certified in bilingual education and ESL.

Jan began her teaching career in the Salt Lake City schools as a long-term substitute in fourth grade but soon moved to a classroom with first- and second-grade students. She initiated a rotating reading program for grades one, two, and three and established a fifth grade Buddy Program. Since moving to Arizona in 1989, she has taught at Rancho Solano School, Washington School District, T. J. Pappas School, Dysart District, and is currently with the Peoria District.

Jan has served as chapter secretary and president plus the Omicron State treasurer. She enjoys hiking, camping, and various activities with her nine grandchildren. ♥

### Pat Fountain and Kim George

Pat Fountain (Chi Chapter, California) graduated from Pepperdine College and taught in the Los Angeles Unified District for four years. She then taught kindergarten at Palms Tiny Tot for two years. After her two girls were born, she returned to work at Palms Tiny Tots for over 35 years.

Pat is actively involved with her DKG chapter in California, coordinates the Jared Box Project, and is the California State Project Chairman.

Kim George (Alpha) graduated from the same high school as her mother, Pat Foun-



Pat Fountain and Kim George

tain - just 30 years later. Kim graduated from California State University, Northridge where she received a K-12 certification, SPED, and English as a Second Language (ESL) endorsement.

After moving to Tucson, Kim was a substitute before teaching English Language Learner (ELL) for one year. Then she taught SPED for Gardner Middle School in San Manuel for a year when the family moved to Missouri, where she was a long-term SPED teacher in the Behavior Disorder classroom. After moving back to Tucson nine years ago she has been working at Marana Middle School. ♥



Jane Wilson



Kay Wilson

### Jane Wilson and Kay Wilson

Jane Wilson was born and reared in the northeast Texas town of Howe, Texas. One of her goals was to teach children how to read. She began her preparation for this goal by attending college at North Texas State University; however, marriage, children, and a move to Arizona interrupted her pursuit of a teaching degree.

Never giving up, Jane went back to school while working and raising five children.

She graduated from the University of Arizona in the 1970's and began teaching first grade in the Marana Unified School District. During that time, Jane joined Delta Kappa Gamma. After retirement, she continued to substitute teach until her death in 2008.

Kay Wilson grew up in Coolidge, Arizona, the daughter of two teachers. Having many interests (music, animals, foreign languages, and 4-H), it was hard for her to settle on a career.

She attended the University of Arizona on a music scholarship, and graduated with a secondary teaching degree. She spent a year

teaching in Safford, Arizona.

After working on a K-12 reading endorsement, Kay moved to Las Vegas. She married Ken Wilson, a Tucson native who had moved to Las Vegas. Two sons later, the Wilson's moved back to Tucson. Kay taught part-time at Sylvan Learning Center. In 1988, she began teaching reading in the Marana Unified District and retired in 2009.

Currently, she does substitute teaching, gives "Bubbleology" presentations to elementary students, performs with three musical groups, and is bonding with her cat, her dog, and the neighborhood finches, quail, and hummingbirds. ♥

### Marlene Evans and Ruth Wilmot

Marlene Evans was initiated into Iota Chapter in 1976. She was co-president 1998-2002.

After graduating from Arizona State College (now ASU) in 1953, Marlene began her teaching career in the home economics department at Tolleson Union High School.

Three children later, Marlene resumed part-time teaching with the Adult Family Living Program at Phoenix College. When the family moved to Yuma, she became director of the Arizona Western College Child Development Center.

Since retirement, Marlene has served as a hospice volunteer, Yuma Reading Council literacy tutor, and Yuma City/County Library District volunteer.

Marlene and her husband, Raymond celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2003. They stay active keeping track of their sons, Robert (California) and Ronald (Missouri) and eight grandchildren. Local recreational activities with daughter Ruth and her husband add to a long but enjoyable schedule.

Before she was a member of DKG, Ruth Wilmot was the recipient of scholarships given by Iota Chapter in 1977 and 1978. She graduated from NAU with a B.A. degree in Elementary Education. She completed her student teaching in Yuma with her former second grade teacher and began work that year - before graduation - as a Title I aide. She then was hired as a first-grade teacher at Rolle Elementary School. She stayed in first grade for 10 years before being promoted to fourth grade, which she continues to teach.

Ruth has held all chapter offices except treasurer and has been on many Omicron State committees. She and her husband, Leon, enjoy many hobbies. They are members of the SASS (Single Action Shooting Society) and shoot monthly cowboy action matches as well as travel to many state and regional matches. They are proud owners of a 1929 Model A Ford pickup. They have horses and ride when they can squeeze in the time. ♥



**Josephine Bates** (Delta) was honored on her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday at a reception at the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, in Tempe. Many in attendance had been her students from years past.

**Marge Dallabetta** (Iota) was recently recognized for her 5,500 hours of volunteer service at the Yuma Regional Medical Center.

**Marcelle Bersin** (Upsilon) has been recognized by the University of Arizona College of Humanities for her work in founding and developing the Southern Arizona Language Fair. Started in 1984, the Fair annually welcomes over 2,000 K-16 student competitors in oral proficiency in several languages.



Marcelle Bersin  
(Upsilon) founder  
of Southern Arizona  
Language Fair

**Karen Thompson** (Chi) received an "Above and Beyond" award from Saguaro Scottsdale principal Annie Preston. Karen is Scottsdale Charro's "Teacher of the Year."

**Lisa White** (Chi) chaired an exchange with students and teachers from Interlaken, Switzerland, and Scottsdale Saguaro High School.

**Sally Switzer** (Rho) for her talents in the compiling and printing the 2010 Convention program booklet.

**Pearl Nancarrow** (Delta) for the butterfly art work on the front cover of the convention program booklet.

**Phi Chapter** for your excellent leadership and all your efforts in making the 2010 State Convention such a success. Special kudos to chapter members **Phyllis Swan, Mary Lou Boettcher, Jan Smith and Pattie Vincent.**

**Merry Lewis** (Mu) official photographer of Omicron State contributed most of the photos in this issue of the *Sabuaroo*.

**Mary Ann Yee** (Rho) and **Lori Good** (Alpha Alpha) represented Omicron State at the US Forum in Washington, DC on March 14-17, 2010. ♥



## News from International Linda Eller

Linda Eller, the Society's Communication Services Administrator, brought greetings and information from International when she spoke to members at the Rose Banquet. First, she urged chapters to create new ways to energize and increase member participation.

Second, she reminded members to become familiar with the proposed *International Constitution* changes to be voted on at the 2010 International Convention.

Speaking about the use of technology, Ms. Eller told of exciting ways the internet can be used at all levels of the Society; two examples were *Go to Meeting* and *Facebook*.

She celebrated the addition of Panama as the 17<sup>th</sup> nation in the Delta Kappa Gamma. Linda shared ways the convention in Spokane would include a marketplace with commercial and chapter vendors, a cyber café, many great workshops, and important business meetings.

Mary Brock (Iota)

## Diamond Anniversary Awards

Next year is Omicron State's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. The Achievement Award Committee presented a motion to make a special award to honor excellence, and the motion was approved. This one-time only award would allow the committee to select up to ten honorees.

Deadline for applications could be earlier than the usual February 1. Nomination forms will be sent directly to chapter presidents. Each nomination form must be accompanied by a recommendation not exceeding 25 words.

Summer is a good time to assemble all the information regarding a nominee's service to the Society – chapter, state, international.

Mary Ann Liddle (Lambda), Chairman  
Omicron State Achievement Award Committee

## Tucson Council May Breakfast

Saturday, May 1, 2010, the Tucson Council initiated fifteen members into the Society. Among those initiated was Denise Martin (Nu), the daughter of Omicron State Past President Dena Martin (Zeta). Her other daughter, Debi Ybarra, is a member of Iota Chapter in Yuma.

Ninety members welcomed the Council's grant-in-aid recipient, Amanda Chicago, and her mother, Teresa Chicago. Gloria Day (Alpha) made the presentation.

The hostess chapter was Mu, with Merry Lewis, chairman. Another chapter, Nu, hon-

ored the founders. The tribute to the retirees, led by Linda Stockbauer (Xi), recognized Sue Pearson (Upsilon), Cheryl Bowman (Upsilon), and Gail Gentry (Alpha Rho).

The theme of the breakfast, "Celebrate the Best of the West," paid tribute to Dorothy Finley, a long-time Mu Chapter member. Allen Kates, ghost-writer, author, editor, and writing coach, spoke about working as a ghost writer and read passages from, "Just Plain Dorothy," a book that mentions Delta Kappa Gamma, teaching and ranching.

Merry Lewis (Mu)

## Alpha Beta Chapter Honors Diane Sheets

Diane has been Alpha Beta's main "mover and shaker" for many years. At the chapter's meeting on May 1, she was presented her 30-year pin, a red rose, an engraved jewelry box, and a Memories scrapbook. All the active members of the chapter contributed to the scrapbook by writing a paragraph or poem for Diane. Many in state leadership positions, past and present, also supplied thoughts and pictures.

Some of Diane's accomplishments include: Alpha Beta president, Omicron State Achievement Award, Omicron State president, Southwest Regional Convention Co-Chairman, and Golden Gift recipient.

Diane has made an impact on Alpha Beta Chapter and at state and international levels of Della Kappa Gamma. Thank you, Diane.

Marge Threewit (Alpha Beta)

## "I don't have time"

*How do you respond to this statement?*  
Copied from the Michigan State Wolverine

1. Explain that generally the chapter meets only once a month, for a limited time - it's a way to give yourself a gift of fellowship, fun, and learning.
2. Attendance is not required: come late or leave early when you must.
3. The chapter provides interesting and valuable programs that you won't get anywhere else.
4. Share the agenda of the next meeting or past meetings to show that time is utilized efficiently.
5. Solicit ideas from the chapter about how to value the time of members; listen carefully to needs concerning time.
6. Describe the use of segmented meetings for members who can stay only a limited time.

Phoenix, Arizona 85018  
3426 E. Elm Street  
Delta Kappa Gamma-Omicron State



Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Phoenix, Arizona  
Permit No. 1152



<b>Jinnett Kirk-Shirley</b> July 3, 2008	Sigma Tempe, AZ
<b>Wilma Williams</b> March 7, 2010	Alpha Zeta Casa Grande, AZ
<b>Joyce Morkel-Morris</b> March 18, 2010	Nu Tucson, AZ
<b>Sara Sweeny</b> May 2, 2010	Chi Scottsdale, AZ
<b>Elsie "Curly" Sullivan</b> May 10, 2010	Lambda Tucson, AZ

### Past State President Jinnett Kirk-Shirley Dies

Jinnett Kirk-Shirley (Sigma) died July 3, 2008. She was Omicron State President during the 1961-1963 biennium.

She was a teacher and counselor at Phoenix Tech High School and later served as an administrator at Phoenix College and Mesa Community College. The Student Center on the Mesa College campus is named in her honor.

Among her honors were the Omicron State Achievement Award, the Outstanding Educator of America Award, the A.W.A.R.E. International Minerva Award, and an honorary Doctor of Letters from Chapman College in California.

### Tacoma, WA Beckons YOU for the 2010 Seminar in Purposeful Living!

Highlighting an "Arts with Nature" theme couldn't be easier in beautiful Tacoma, Washington. Join fellow members and guests July 15-18, 2010, prior to the International convention in Spokane.

Stay at the lovely Hotel Murano for a seminar

in the heart of Puget Sound, city known worldwide for the glass arts. Visit the Glass Museum, the History Museum, and the Tacoma Art Museum. Walk across the Chihuly Bridge of Glass and see artists in action. Enjoy local natural beauty while Mount Rainier watches over you!

A musical evening is planned, as well as speakers and time to shop for treasures.

The Educational Foundation Trustees hope to see you in Tacoma: Where Art and Nature Meet!

### International Convention July 20 – 24, 2010

Journey to Spokane, Washington, for the 2010 International Convention July 20-24. Encourage a delegation from your chapter to plan to attend. Registration forms are in the January/February  $\Delta K \Gamma$  NEWS and on the Society website.

Expand the convention experience with some pre-convention tours or tie a vacation happening to your trip to the Northwest.

Visit the 100-year-old Loeff Carousal with its beautifully carved lions, tigers, and horses. Learn of its history, something about the man behind the work, and ride one of the top ten carousals in the country. Spokane claims it as a treasure.

With a proposed new constitution, this is the year to attend and discover how the Society functions. You'll witness first-hand the international procession, observe Robert's Rules of Order in action, meet new friends, rekindle old friendships, and uncover the breadth and depth of your organization.

### Dates to Remember

**July 15-18, 2010**

Seminar for Purposeful Living  
Tacoma, Washington

**July 20-24, 2010**

International Convention  
The Davenport Hotel and Tower  
Spokane Convention Center, Spokane, Washington

**October 23, 2010**

All Member Workshop & Executive Board Meeting  
First Assembly of God Church  
523 W Ray Road, Chandler, Arizona

**April 29-May 1, 2011**

Omicron State Convention  
Westward Look Resort, Tucson, Arizona

**June 27-July 2, 2011**

Southwest Regional Conference  
Hyatt Regency Tech Center  
7800 E. Tufts Ave., Denver, Colorado



### Diamond Anniversary Convention

Omicron State will celebrate its 75th birthday at the 2011 Diamond Anniversary Convention. Westward Look Resort in Tucson is the place to be, April 29 - May 1, 2011. Special honorees will include mother/daughter members of the Society, those born in 1936, and buildings or schools named after members. There will be a 1930s memorabilia display plus a style show of the fashions of the era. Special Achievement awards will be presented. An outstanding keynote speaker will address the assembly on Saturday morning and special gifts will be presented to all attendees at the Saturday banquet.

### Rose Boutique

At the 2010 Convention Rose Boutique there was a range of items from handmade quilts to homemade goodies and jellies, as well as artistic, hand-painted note cards and photos of the desert wildlife. Chi Chapter offered DKG sister bracelets which had seven colorful beads representing the seven purposes.

#### SAHUARO

#### Publication Deadlines

Fall Issue	August 15, 2010
Winter Issue	January 15, 2011
Spring Issue	May 1, 2011

Berneil Drake, Editor  
3426 E. Elm St., Phoenix, AZ 85018-3430  
e-mail: berneild@aol.com