



Arizona SAHUARO

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International – For Key Women Educators

Achievement Award Committee selects honorees



PHOTO BY RENATE KROMPASKY

Achievement Award winners Suellen Brahs, Rho and Marge Threewit, Alpha Beta, with committee member Evelyn Craft, Lambda.

Omicron State honors two members who have made outstanding contributions in the Society. Marge Threewit (Alpha Beta), currently has the challenging position of Omicron treasurer. She has been on three state committees including Expansion, Membership and Nominations. Threewit has given workshops on technology, communication and finance. She is always willing to take on new responsibilities. She was president of her chapter twice and vice president once. While chapter president she revitalized her chapter by sponsoring six new members.

The Achievement Award was also given to Suellen Brahs (Rho). She has immersed herself in Society activities from the year of her initiation. She has been involved in state, regional and international activities. Brahs has been on the Scholarship, Women in the Arts, Life Experience and Legislative state committees. She has been chapter president twice and vice-president twice. Currently her most valued contribution is skillfully guiding Rho and Sigma chapters through their necessary merger in the last biennium. She is still serving in this capacity.

Congratulations to these deserving “Stars” of Omicron State.

Mercedes Korn, (Alpha Iota), Chair Achievement Award Committee

Strive for the Stars and Shine: A Challenge and Fulfillment

Strive for the stars and you came.
Strive for leadership and you led.
Strive for knowledge and you learned.
Strive for Omicron State and you shone.

Initiation candles remind us to shine.
Laurel leaves encourage us to achieve.
The cup of knowledge challenges us to teach.
Red roses remind us of courage and loyalty.

Rays of starlight guide us to
Serve, tune in, encourage and participate.
Strive for the stars and shine.
Become a ray of starlight to those around you.

Janye Brainard, Kappa, Texas
(Used with permission)

Special thanks to Omicron State members

What a real honor it was to be the Society Representative at your Omicron State Organization convention, “Strive For the Stars and Shine.” That’s what I saw everywhere, members stepping up and shining.

The chapter officers’ training offered on Friday was filled with many tips and information. Opening Night entertainment by Jim West was a lot of fun for everyone to enjoy. And Carolyn Warner at the Birthday Luncheon was a dynamic speaker whose book I have enjoyed reading. Of course, I also spent some money at the Rose Boutique.

The Executive Board meeting was run well with President Rachel, and the SAP support given for chapters is to be commended.

Your KARE (Keep Active, Reach Everyone) Program is one of the best support systems for chapters that I have seen. Last year’s initiations and reinstatements were up. Well done! Keep up the good work.

Congratulations to Alice Reule who will attend the DKG Leadership Management Seminar this summer.

And, congratulations to all of you in Omicron State Organization for SHINING so brightly. What a pleasure to meet so many of you and see first-hand all the talent and leadership in your



PHOTO BY RENATE KROMPASKY

Heidi Chadwick, Southwest Regional Director and Rachel Wear, Omicron State President in front of the Convention Banner.

state. Thank you for the wonderful hospitality. Keep shining!

Heidi Chadwick, Southwest Regional Director





Stepping Up with Rachel

As a child I loved going on car excursions with my grandparents and being allowed to try and find a station on the radio. Turning the knob on the Philco radio back and forth very slowly, I would finally manage to tune into a frequency with little static. Then I would sit back in my seat feeling satisfied because I had accomplished my goal so everyone could enjoy the music.

Each member of our unique and special Society possesses her own individual way of lending her talents and ideas to her chapter, state organization and the international level. One thing we all have in common, however, is that we are key women educators – outstanding

teachers with sound communication skills – always ready to listen, learn and share with others. These qualities produce a genuine leader, one who has willingly tuned into the needs and challenges before her and stepped up to make a positive difference.

Such a group of Omicron State women recently came together at the 2014 Chapter Officers Leadership Training Seminar in Mesa. Our state leaders relayed the training they had received from international and shared their own leadership experiences with new chapter officers. In turn, the new officers are prepared and ready to step into their positions of leadership with a renewed sense of confidence.

In like manner, we all can experience that wonderful feeling of accomplishment in DKG if we heed the suggestion of poet Edmund O'Neill. O'Neill encourages us to step off the ordinary path fearlessly and head in our own direction, believing all the while we will ultimately succeed. All we need do is turn our personal dial to the area of our organization that intrigues us – be it a committee, project, program, activity or new idea – and tune into devoting our best effort to it, which will inevitably yield successful

results. It just takes a plan broken into small steps and the willingness to take the first step.

As summer blazes into southern Arizona with thermometers flashing one-hundred degree plus temperatures, some of us make plans to enjoy the season while remaining cool at the same time. Others of us in northern Arizona experience relief to shed winter jackets and enjoy the fresh aromas of the outdoors. No matter where we are in the state, though, we can make plans for our DKG involvement.

Mark your calendars for the Fall Workshop on October 18, 2014, the Arts Retreat from January 31-February 1, 2015, and the 2015 convention in Tucson, April 24-26. I look forward to being with many of you at the International Convention, July 28-August 1, in the heart of Indianapolis. You will be inspired by several acclaimed speakers and have a large variety of marvelous workshops from which to choose. There is still time to register and join in this rewarding event.

It was such a pleasure visiting with many of you at the spring state convention, and my goal is to visit as many chapters as possible during this final year of my biennium..

Life experience day at the Desert Botanical Gardens



PHOTO BY MARGE THREEWIT

Alpha Beta members Marge Threewit and Diane Sheets with Heidi Chadwick, Southwest Regional Director, enjoy the Desert Botanical Gardens.

The “world of life” was indeed embodied by all seen, some touched and untouched experiences as many of our DKG sisters strolled through the Desert Botanical Gardens on April 25th, Arbor Day. Thirty-two members came to share in camaraderie and/or individual meditation with the visual imagery of the talented glass artist Dale Chihuly. Guests were greeted at the entry of the Gardens with the Chihuly yellow/green glass yuccas pointing their spires to the real plants. Worked within nature’s

creativity of trees, grasses, plants, and cacti, were brilliant long purple glass stalactites, rays of a blue sun burst, multi-sized colored balls floating in a rickety old wooden boat, and creative glass surprises around every corner. The enthusiasm for the event was shown by a group of members coming early to take in the experience before setting up for the 2014 Omicron State Convention. Others braved the long walk from the parking lot to be greeted

by Garden staff providing electric carts to drive along the paths. The new restaurant and outdoor café were chosen by many as gathering places for refreshment and hearty conversation. If you were one of the members that toured, but didn’t receive your “Desert Seed Packet” gift, please call Marj Jones, 602-955-5574 or e-mail her at eddocmarj@cox.net so she can send it to you.

Marj Jones, Beta

National legislative seminar stresses important topics

Those Omicron State members attending the National Legislative Seminar in Arlington, Virginia in January, 2014 were Wally Turner (Eta) US Forum Chair, Susan Halliday (Alpha Delta), Lori Good (Alpha Alpha), Marge Threewit (Alpha Beta), and Sherry Alimi (Eta).

The four day seminar was filled with speakers on such subjects as Women Leaders in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) and The Keys to Future STEM Careers, Human Trafficking, GPO/WEP and Teacher Licensure, Hunger in America, Healthcare for Women and Children, the National Women’s History Museum, and Pay Equity. One day was spent at the Capitol to visit Congressional Offices. Attendees also visited Mount Vernon and the satirical musical play The Capitol Step. The Seminar closed with inspirational author Jones Loflin giving a clever vehicle to examine where leaders should focus energy and attention to achieve greater results in all of their endeavors.

At the Omicron State Convention attendees conducted a workshop to share more about the Seminar, speakers and their experiences in Washington, D.C. The next Seminar will be held in the Spring of 2016.

Lori Good, Alpha Alpha

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS HONORED

On Saturday, April 26, 2014 at the Delta Kappa Gamma Omicron State Convention Penny Hanes (Alpha Zeta) was presented with the Jean Crosby Hansen Founders Scholarship and Jennifer S. Lichtsinn (Alpha Rho) was presented with the Isadore Munger Endowment Scholarship.

Hanes is from Casa Grande and is currently enrolled at Northern Arizona University in the Educational Leadership-Principal Certification K-12 Master of Education Program. She has four classes left towards this, her second master's degree. She is currently a Title I Reading Teacher at Toltec Elementary School in Eloy, Arizona where she has also taught fourth, fifth and sixth grades. She is currently first vice-president in her chapter.

Green Valley is where Lichtsinn makes her home. Beginning in January of this year she began the pursuit of her PhD in Early Childhood Education at the University of Arizona. She is the director of the preschool program at Continental Elementary School, the teacher-supervisor of the Builder's Club (middle school version of Key Club) and is serving as Alpha Rho's chapter president.

The members of Omicron State are proud of these members and their contributions to education and the organizations in which they serve. If you have been a member of DKG for

three years and are pursuing further education please consider applying for a scholarship. Check the state website and submit your application form by February 1st, 2015. The money is there to be awarded. We will carefully consider all who apply!

Patsy Bock, Alpha Chi



Penny Hanes.

PHOTOS USED WITH PERMISSION



Jennifer Lichtsinn (Alpha Rho) is congratulated by Rachel Wear (Alpha Rho).

Debra Bergbower-Grunwald, Alpha Delta-Debra is an active volunteer with projects for our military veterans.

As each name was called, the recipient stepped into the Spotlight as her picture appeared on a large screen and a brief summary of her activities was read. A certificate was presented to each winner. Congratulations to the 2014 Spotlight Award Winners!

*Dr. Renate Krompasky, Nu,
Educational Excellence Committee Member*

Kim Covington receives Omicron State Media Award



PHOTO BY RENATE KROMPASKY

Kim Covington, Weekend Evening Anchor/Action Team Reporter for KPNX Phoenix, was presented the 2014 Omicron State Media Award at the Convention Birthday Luncheon. Joining the Channel 12 News team in February 2005, Kim anchors the weekend evening news and is the lead reporter for the station's education franchise, School Solutions. Both her impressive educational reporting and her attitude about helping children know that they can achieve their dreams led to her recognition by Omicron State.

Kim felt honored and touched to receive the award, and Channel 12 filmed the award ceremony. It aired that evening on the 6:00 and 10:00 news. It was Kim's first day back as the Channel 12 Weekend Evening News anchor after seven months recovering from an on-the-job vehicle accident.

Lori Good, Alpha Alpha

Educational Excellence Committee names Spotlight Winners

During the Omicron State Convention birthday luncheon, sixteen members of DKG were recognized with the Spotlight Award which is awarded to members for accomplishments and contributions to the community and/or an educational setting outside of Delta Kappa Gamma activities. The following individuals received this award:

Donna McGaughey, Kappa - As the Graham County School Superintendent, Donna volunteers with 17 organizations.

Michele Harbour, Nu - Michelle conducts professional development for librarians in TUSD.

Glennalee Foulk, Alpha - Glennalee works with the Symphony Women's Association in Tucson.

Diane Sheets, Alpha Beta -Diane volunteers for the Phoenix Symphony Friends Organization, John C. Lincoln North Mountain Hospital, and Maricopa County Juvenile Justice Panel for Peoria.

Norma Bauer, Eta - Norma is a math interventionist at Miller Valley School promoting "Touch Math" and "Times Tales".

Jean Fuer Davis, Alpha Rho - Jean is the president of the Animal League of Green Valley.

Lisa White, Chi - Lisa coordinated bilingual exchanges with students in Scottsdale and Switzerland.

Darlyne Blanton-Withrow, Omega - Darlyne volunteers at her church and recycles items from her walks.

Sandra Hillegass, Beta - Sandra developed the Target Foundation's Reading Detectives Program for two schools in the Cartwright District.

Nancy Putman, Alpha Alpha - Nancy volunteers for the Washington Education Foundation.

Barbara Chinworth, Lambda - Barbara conducts the Old Pueblo Brass Band.

Patricia Bock, Alpha Chi - Patrica volunteers at her church in many capacities.

Georgia Bernheim, Epsilon - Georgia volunteers for the Boy Scouts of America.

Kelley Fisher, Alpha Iota - Kelley was the Deer Valley Teacher of the Year 2013 and participates in Susan G. Komen three day walks. Her team has raised over a million dollars for breast cancer research.

Debby Webster, Alpha Epsilon - Debby volunteers at the Phoenix Botanical Gardens.

Carolyn Warner shares her dream

Carolyn Warner was the featured speaker at the Saturday Convention Birthday Luncheon. Warner has been active for more than three decades on state and national levels as a respected and effective educational advocate and public policy leader. She served for twelve years as Arizona's elected State Superintendent of Public Instruction, is the recipient of numerous awards and is a prolific author.

Warner gave us inspiration and a laugh or two as she spoke to us about current educational issues here in Arizona and shared with us her writing on The New American Dream. Warner was initiated as an Alpha Alpha Honorary Chapter member in December 1974 and named an Omicron State Honorary member in April 1975.

Lori Good, Alpha Alpha

The New American Dream

Give me your hungry children,
your sick children, your homeless
and abused children.

Give me your children who need love
as badly as they need learning.

Give me your children who have
talents and gifts and skills.

Give me your children
who have none.

Give them all to me, in whatever form
they come, and the people within
these walls will help.

Give you the doctors and the
engineers and the scientists and the
lawyers and the ministers and the
teachers of tomorrow.

We will give you the mothers and the
fathers, the thinkers and the builders,
the artists and the dreamers.

We will give you
the nation of tomorrow.

We will give you the future of Arizona.

We will give you the American Dream.

Carolyn Warner

Even though she is legally blind, she writes her own note when renewing membership each year. She will celebrate her 103rd birthday in August.

Thank you to Jane Holdcroft, Renate Krompasky, Cindy Schuttner and Suellen Brahs for the biography contributions and Faye Golden for creating a memorable 50 year brochure which was distributed at the Birthday Luncheon.

Alice Reule, Alpha Delta

World Fellowship Committee thanks members

The World Fellowship Committee thanks all members who attended the Lei of Friendship Breakfast at the Omicron State Convention. We really enjoyed ourselves and from the crowd's laughter, it seemed you enjoyed yourselves too. We'd also like to thank you for the generous donations you made totaling \$648. We hope you will consider joining us again next year in Tucson.

To encourage year-round support, in the fall you might put World Fellowship on your first meeting agenda. Take time to explain why we have this program, how recipients are selected, and how members can correspond with and support recipients. Contact information is available from international.

The committee is collecting fund raising and enrichment ideas. Ideas to get started include the following:

1. Jars or boxes – a container is given to each member at the first chapter meeting. When something "special" comes your way, you put a few coins or bills in the container. Examples may be a grandchild receiving an award, an unexpected gift, a visit from a dear friend, a good health report, etc. It's between you and the container. At the last yearly meeting the World Fellowship chair collects the boxes and the money is donated to the fund.

2. Treasure Spot – make a spot at each meeting for members to contribute gently used items, baked or homemade goods for members to bid on.

3. Jewelry and Junque – hold a sale at a regular meeting solely for the purpose of exchanging each other's "goodies." Costume jewelry and small items bring in cash.

Chapters are encouraged to send success stories to dkmartin07@yahoo.com.

Miki Grady, Chi

Celebrating five 50-year members 1964-2014

Congratulations to the following dedicated educators, still active today and "shining stars" of DKG:

- Barbara Burnham, Alpha Xi, from Texas--a 2nd grade teacher of 22 years. She writes short stories, reads and enjoys needlework.

- Kay Drake, Alpha Xi, from Illinois--a Home Economics teacher of 33 1/2 years. She enjoys Bridge, traveling, and time with family.

- Marla Lee Jackson, Nu, from Michigan—a retired high school English teacher; Director of Gifted and Talented for 32 years. Marla is tech savy and enjoys Facebook, reads, travels, enjoys photography, mentors a student interested in publishing, is sponsoring a child in Africa and enjoys Native American children's dances and festivities.

- Elizabeth "Beth" Swanson, Rho, from Missouri—a retired high school business teacher of 38 years. She served for 28 years as a proofreader of the Arizona Sahuaro and earned the Omicron State Achievement Award. She is a member of All Arizona School Retirees.

- Hermione Williams, Epsilon, from Arizona—taught school in Tombstone, Arizona.

Volunteer hours, priceless

Saraj Jagermath, Alpha Iota and Beverly Combs, Alpha Beta display the ceremonial check representing volunteer hours by Omicron State members in the last year.



PHOTO BY RENATE KROMPASKY

Omicron State Educational Foundation grant recipients

The Educational Foundation has awarded fifty winners of \$1000 grants in celebration of its 50th Anniversary this year. Omicron State has five recipients. The winners received roses at the Omicron State Convention. Front row: Hope Atchison, Alpha Epsilon; Sarah Lynn Clem, Alpha; Mega Douglas from Tucson and Dr. Nancy Noll, Alpha Delta, Educational Foundation 50th Anniversary Committee member. Second Row: Sherry Baca ,Eta and Donna Reynolds (Educational Foundation Trustee). Not pictured, Angelica Rodriguez (Beta).



PHOTO BY RENATE KROMPASKY

Tai Chi:

For health and happiness

Cheri Balkenbush, master Tai Chi teacher for 20 years, presented a workshop at the state convention. Balkenbush has studied with Dr. Chow for the last 15 years and teaches the Yang classical style. This style involves both the healing and martial arts applications. She demonstrated many balance movements and demonstrated how the qi works in our bodies. Everyone actively participated and enjoyed learning Tai Chi.

Mercedes Korn, Alpha Iota

2014 Convention attendance and first timer awards

Most members in attendance:
Alpha Iota (18)
Highest % of members in area:
Alpha Iota (56%)
Most members out of area (three-way tie):
Alpha, Eta, Alpha Rho (10 each)
Highest % of members out of area: Eta (28%)
15 first timers were registered

Alice Reule, (Alpha Delta)

Presenter recommends visiting Egypt

“Come With Me to Egypt” was presented by Cynthia Maher. This workshop was an interesting overview of the social customs discovered while she was a resident and instructor at the American University in Cairo. Cynthia provided a sampling of textile products, numerous books for reference and beautiful photographs of tourist attractions from her travels. She explained that education is valued in Egypt, but students are required to pass eligibility testing to attend high school and college. Sadly, due to the economy, there is little opportunity for the graduates to use their knowledge. She found the people of Egypt to be warm and inviting. Solitude is not commonplace. They value friends and family and revel in each other's company. They especially enjoy nighttime fun in an exuberant manner while seemingly never needing sleep. Cynthia had an amazing experience in Egypt and recommended that attendees pursue opportunities to explore its wonders.

Vicki Krain, Alpha Iota

Chapter presidents work on strategic action plans

The Strategic Action Planning Workshop for Chapter Presidents was inspirational. Chapter presidents “strategized” together and came up with some great ideas for their chapters’ Strategic Action Plans. With the guidance of Sandy Breece (Alpha Chi), Jan Rosenberg-Noe (Nu), and Jean Fuer Davis (Alpha Rho), the groups were very productive and were able to formulate some initial outlines for their plans. The obvious choices of encouraging growth of chapter membership and inviting new teachers to attend meetings and activities were among the ideas attendees discussed. Other ideas are to recruit teachers from more diversified groups, to find new ideas for programming and service projects, and to create a webpage for chapters. Each incoming chapter president in attendance was asked to turn in a rough draft of a proposed Strategic Action Plan to present to her Executive Board and chapter. The workshop was very helpful and really motivated those in attendance.

Karen Blackstone, Alpha Epsilon



CONGRATULATIONS, 25 Year Members

- Alpha – Sharon Ann Modi
- Alpha – Vicki Berglind
- Alpha Alpha – J. Virginia Hourihan
- Alpha Delta – Kathryn Green
- Alpha Delta – Betsy Cary
- Alpha Iota – Muriel Ornelis
- Alpha Xi - Paulette Trijilio
- Alpha Xi – June Chartrand
- Alpha Zeta – Rhonda Boales
- Beta – Carol McSwain
- Beta – Kim Meighan
- Chi – Judith Chacon
- Chi – Lois Fitch
- Chi – Faith Harris
- Iota – Marilyn Davis
- Kappa – Barbara Ann Spining
- Lambda – June Gibble
- Nu – Jo Ann Sayre
- Nu – Joyce Ramberg
- Upsilon – Judith Thompson
- Upsilon – Jennifer Hillman
- Xi – Sheila Maguire Bradley
- Zeta – Carol Elmer
- Eta – Rosalind Padilla

★ ★ Convention raffle winners ★ ★

To offset Convention costs a state pin and raffle tickets were sold. We collected \$985 from raffle ticket sales and \$595 for pins for a total of \$1,580. Raffle winners were:

- Spa Basket: Julie Berkel, Chi
- USA Basket: Wanda Burton, Tau
- Variety Food Basket: Nancy Frank, Alpha Beta
- Chocolate Delight Basket: Darby Downs, Alpha Rho
- Beverage Basket: Janet Fish, Alpha Eta
- Death by Chocolate Basket: Denise Crockett, Kappa
- Spirit of Christmas Doll: Rhonda Boales, Alpha Zeta

- Mask: Sherry Alimi, Eta
- Versatile Bag: Nancy Westefer, Alpha
- Quilt: Peggy Gerber, Alpha Delta
- Free Registration Fall Workshop: Nieves Johnson, Alpha Sigma
- Frere Registration 2015 State Convention: Pamela Dickerson, Eta
- Free 2015 Convention Rose Banquet: B. Knowles, Eta
- Virginia Hourihan, Lynn Pinda, Lori Good, Alpha Alpha

Dr. Leona Aiken

Accentuates the positive, eliminates the negative

It was a privilege to attend Dr. Leona Aiken's presentation on "Women's Health" at the Omicron State Convention. Dr. Aiken was bestowed the title "President's Professor" at Arizona State University by President Crow for her exceptional contributions to education. In 2010 she was named ASU Outstanding Graduate Mentor and in 2009 she was selected ASU Professor of the Year. Dr. Aiken currently chairs the Doctoral Program in Quantitative Methods in the Department of Psychology at ASU. She has published two books and over 100 research articles.



Dr. Leona Aiken

Dr. Aiken's presentation outlined her research in encouraging healthy lifestyles in women which focuses on the psychological factors that influ-

ence whether women adopt and maintain health protective behaviors. Her findings are based on her study of women in the Phoenix Metropolitan area, in which over 70 women's groups – one of which is DKG – have participated.

Since I was one of the volunteers several years ago, I was eager for this opportunity to meet Dr. Aiken and learn more about her research findings. Several of the topics covered were mammography screenings, hormone therapy, exercise, risky sexual behavior and the use of sunscreen in skin cancer prevention.

According to Dr. Aiken, not only is there an interplay of biological and psychological factors that influence whether women adopt protective behaviors, but social factors as well. Social group norms, even when negative, have a major influence on behaviors. Dr. Aiken shared several interesting findings about normative behavior. First, subjects believed that other people did what was more unhealthy than what they did. Secondly, subjects believed that they did more

than what others did to be healthy.

Dr. Aiken emphasized that knowledge alone doesn't influence healthy behavior choices. Strongly held beliefs, which often are negative social norms, must be challenged to modify healthy choices. How is this done? First, increase self-efficacy of women. Secondly, like Johnny Mercer's lyrics of the 1950's song, one must accentuate the "positive" aspects of health and well-being, not the "negative" aspects of illness. For example, never say, "Don't sunbathe," but rather change the social normative message and show attractive women without sun tans who have beautiful skin. The important message was that negative beliefs can be changed and good health can be under one's control.

If your chapter is interested in a presentation by Dr. Aiken or if a member wishes to participate in a study of women's health, you can contact Dr. Aiken by e-mail as follows: Leona.Aiken@asu.edu/

Charlotte M. Kraus, Alpha Epsilon

US Forum chairman presents legislative updates

At a workshop held at the 2014 Omicron State Convention, Eta Chapter member and new transfer from Texas, Wally Turner led a captivating discussion about legislative updates and political action that impact women, education, and children. Turner is the US Forum Chairman and presented with Lori Good, Marge



Wally Turner, Eta

Threewit, and Sherry Alimi. All four members attended the US Forum in Washington D.C. which included sightseeing the nation's beautiful capital, meeting legislative interns for representative Kyrsten Sinema, and learning about some of the important changes impacting the lives of women educators. Some of the most significant legislative bills discussed concern the STEM program, the National Women's History Museum, pay equality, the Paycheck Fairness Act, and human trafficking. The workshop was a wonderful example of how the DKG members who presented were able to uphold the mission of the US Forum Committee and the Society by sharing information and ideas while exploring solutions to common problems through dialogue. Further information can be accessed by means of the US Forum website on the DKG homepage and the US Forum Facebook page.

Gina Etzel, Alpha Iota

Convention workshop explores ethnic identity in self-portraits

How do students find voice in their artwork using words along with their self-portraits in order to discover their ethnic and cultural identities? This question, along with others, was asked by Bonnie Hill-Dowdy (Alpha Epsilon) presenter of the workshop Ethnic Identity in Self-Portraits. Hill-Dowdy, an art teacher in

Gilbert, shared information through a power point presentation and activities that she employs with her elementary and middle school art students. The workshop participants were asked to sketch a self-portrait, and while doing

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Senator Farley is "Friend of Education"

Senator Steve Farley is Omicron State's 2014 Friend of Education recipient. Senator Farley is a small-business owner, husband, father of two daughters, and the son of two public school teachers. Also a well-known artist, he is best known for the historic photographic tile murals around the Broadway underpass, at the eastern gateway to downtown Tucson.

Now in his fourth term at the Capitol, he previously served three terms as the Arizona State Representative for District 28 in Tucson. Senator Farley is working to move Arizona forward with legislative priorities in the areas of jobs and economic development, education, senior issues, public safety, transportation choices, sustainable growth, fiscal health, and quality of life.

Senator Farley was a guest speaker for Omicron State's 2014 Legislative Day at the Capitol. There he listened to our concerns, answered our questions, and expressed his views on charter schools, school vouchers, health and

library funding, and state transportation plans.

Susan Halliday, Alpha Delta



Friend of Education winner state Senator Steve Farley, District 9, Tucson, is pictured with Omicron state members who attended Legislative Day. Front Row: Rachel Wear, Alpha Rho; Alice Reule, Alpha Delta. Back Row: Nancy Mahon, Alpha; Connie Myren, Lambda; Suellen Brahs, Rho; Susan Halliday, Alpha Delta; Senator Farley, Lori Good, Alpha Alpha; Marge Threewit, Alpha Beta; Diane Gara-Weiner, Alpha Delta; Debra Bergbower-Grunwald, Alpha.



Jean Fuer Davis, Alpha Rho, was one of twenty-five Champions honored by The Green Valley News and the Sahuarita Sun. Her tireless work as president of the Animal League of Green Valley is her way of giving back to the community and earned her the award.

Carol Klein, Alpha Sigma, was chosen as Westside Impact Teacher of the Year, an award given by the PTA. She is an elementary school teacher in the Litchfield Park School District.

Jeannie Grochocki, Alpha Sigma, achieved her National Board Certification and was selected to be a part of the K12 State Solutions Team for the State of Arizona. She teaches in the Litchfield Park School District.

Marcia Todd, Alpha Epsilon, made and donated a quilted wall hanging to Omicron state in memory of her aunt (Josephine Vawter also a member of Alpha Epsilon) who passed away at the age of 102. The quilt was won by Peggy Gerber, Alpha Delta.

Renate Kropmasky, Nu, and Lori **Good**, Alpha Alpha, contributed photos to the Sahuaro.

Carmen Wendt, Chi, assisted with the editing of this issue.

Marge Threewit, Alpha Beta, assisted with the graphics for this issue.

Jenny Gendreau, Alpha Beta, was named as one of Grand Canyon University's GCU Faculty Recognition Program instructors for excellent course facilitation and for striving for student success.

Lynette Christian, Alpha, received the University of Phoenix Alumni Community Service Award for excellence in community involvement and outreach.

Dr. Joye Sterrett, Omega, will present a workshop at the International Convention entitled Dream Big: A Scholarship Application Could Change Your Future and **Alice Reule**, Alpha Delta, will present Israel - A Trip of a Lifetime.

Shelly Lizardi, Alpha Rho, has been named as Assistant Principal at Sahuarita Primary School.

Dayna Burke, a new Alpha Rho initiate, was one of the top five for the 2014 Arizona Teacher of the Year. Dayna teaches at Sahuarita Primary and will be serving as an Arizona Ambassador of Excellence for one year.

Supporting educators new to the profession

"If you feed them, they will come." Referring to the line from Field of Dreams ("If you build it, they will come"), Nu Chapter explored ways to support young teachers.

A one-hour brunch organized by Michele Harbour and Denise Moore brought 23 new teachers together to view a DKG power point presentation and hear personal stories from chapter members. Prospective members received folders containing the seven goals of the Society as well as information about scholarships.

Chapter members provided colorful Southwestern mugs filled with teacher goodies for each guest to take home. The new teachers provided contact information on cards to be drawn over the next ten months for a \$25 gift card to the store of their choice.

One purpose of the brunch was to encourage new membership, but it also was held to connect young educators with professionals who could support them in practical ways. Nu Chapter plans to be available to share ideas,



PHOTO BY CONNIE SMITH, NU
Left to right: Alissa Smith, Lindsay Earnest, Marie Wine, Victoria Johnston.

work with students and provide opportunities for early teachers to receive extra cash for their classrooms.

One guest said, "You know you are with new teachers when they get excited about free post-it notes!" The chapter saw that as their new friends visited and enjoyed the many egg dishes, muffins and fruit, the first goal of uniting women educators and providing genuine fellowship had been met.

Connie Smith, Nu

Alpha Epsilon has multi-generational members

Alpha Epsilon is proud to claim both a three generation team and a two generation team as chapter members. Karen Blackstone, and her daughter Beth Carbone, welcomed Karen's grand-daughter and Beth's daughter, Kimberly Carbone, a kindergarten teacher, when she was initiated into Delta Kappa Gamma in October. The new member of Alpha Epsilon, Kimberly, is a first-year teacher. Teaching is in Kimberly's blood since both of her parents are teachers and her great-great grandmother was a teacher in a one-room schoolhouse in Wisconsin. There are three other teachers in the family.

Alpha Epsilon held another Initiation in November for Hope Atchison, daughter of Toni Atchison. Hope was one of five Omicron State recipients who received a \$1,000 Educa-



PHOTO BY KAREN BLACKSTONE
Beth Carbone, Kim Carbone, Karen Blackstone.

tional Foundation Award at the Convention's Saturday evening Banquet. Alpha Epsilon is very proud of Hope, a 1st grade teacher who is in her fourth year of teaching. Hope plans to use her grant for a reading program in her classroom.

Karen Blackstone, Alpha Epsilon

What does Educational Excellence mean to you?

Your chapter probably has an Educational Excellence Committee chaired by the first vice-president. The the goals of Educational Excellence include: 1) Advance Excellence in Education, 2) Empower Women, and 3) Increase Global Awareness. These goals seem important to each of us. Do you address them in chapter programs?

For one of the goals, Empower Women, the EE Committee at the international level suggests a focus on the arts. The new DKG Gallery of Fine Arts features a variety of visual art. Literary efforts are showcased as well. Art includes two- and three-dimensional art, photography and crafts such as basketry, jewelry or quilts. There is also a performing arts category. A chapter meeting can focus on the DKG Gallery of Fine Arts or artistic contributions from your members. Omicron State will offer an arts retreat in January, 2015.

Chapter programs may address the other two goals as well. For advancing educational excellence, have a program with a speaker or a discussion of local educational issues. To raise global awareness, discuss current issues relating to education throughout the world, perhaps with emphasis on education for women.

Dr. Joye Sterrett, Chair Educational Excellence Committee

Delta Kappa Gamma-Omicron State
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Barbara Dean	Xi
Tucson, AZ	January 29, 2014
Bessie Hannahs	Nu
Tucson, AZ	February 20, 2014
Dr. Jeannette Kuhn	Alpha
Tucson, AZ	February 25, 2014
Ruby May James	Lambda
Tucson, AZ	February 27, 2014
Patricia Cline	Xi
Tucson, AZ	March 14, 2014
Marjorie McMillen	Alpha Beta
Peoria, AZ	April 1, 2014



VISIT THE
DKG
GALLERY
OF
FINE ARTS



Visual,
performing
and
literary arts
by
DKG members
are highlighted.



dkg.org/content/dkg-gallery-fine-arts

Chapters and members make donations to Omicron State funds 2013-2014

Alpha Chapter members have donated \$175 to the Alice Lang / Kay Fischer Endowment. Of this, \$25 was given to honor Deborah Larned for singing at the memorial service for Kathleen Hatcher.

Alpha Alpha gave \$30 to the Omicron State Scholarship Fund in honor of Connie Myren.

Alpha Epsilon members and a former member have given \$95 to the "Wings" Phyllis Steinmann Endowment in memory of Bob Cullipher, husband of Lois. Bob was always supportive of Lois's work in DKG and on the Wings project.

Donations for the Latin America Fund have been received in the amount of \$1,110. These include: Fall Workshop - \$150, Alpha Epsilon Chapter - \$75, Anonymous donor - \$600, Epsilon Chapter - \$65 and State Convention - \$220 (from scarf sales).

Marge Threewit, Alpha Beta

Dates to Remember

July 28 – August 1, 2014

International Convention

JW Marriott Hotel • Indianapolis, Indiana

Jan. 31 - Feb. 1, 2015

Omicron State Arts Retreat

Spirit in the Desert

Carefree, Arizona

April 24-26, 2015

Omicron State Convention

Radisson Suites Tucson

6555 E. Speedway Blvd. • Tucson, Arizona

July 19-24, 2015

Southwest Regional Conference

Hyatt Regency

Wichita, Kansas

THE ARIZONA SAHUARO

Publication Deadlines

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A Note from the Editor

Thank you all for the lovely cards, emails and text messages. Joyce Geranis sent photos from the convention during the events. I looked at Facebook pages and knew what was happening. Thanks to Wally Turner, Jan Rosenberg and Shelley Smith for reading reports in my place. Carmen Wendt stepped in to help with some of the editing of this issue. The proofreaders each took several articles to edit. Jackie Trujillo called to check on things. I appreciate all of you.

Merry Lewis, Nu, Sahuaro Editor

Ethnic identity

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so were answering questions and discovering more about their own identities and heritage. She finished her session by giving information on several artists and how they, through their art, interpreted identities either by creating portraits or self-portraits. She also shared a number of picture books she uses with her students. She read some of the books aloud to the workshop participants and summarized others. The books help acknowledge different aspects of individual identities and affirm that it is okay to be different.

Peggy Scott, Alpha Epsilon