

DKG@UN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF
THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL
TO THE UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND
THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

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When we first started writing issue Number 1 of the *DKG@UN* Newsletter, on May 11, 2004, it seemed to your representatives at the United Nations a very fortuitous sign that this date was also the 75th Anniversary of the founding of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. We are now in the process of putting together issue Number 20. For six and a half years, several issues of our newsletter each year have been circulated throughout the Society, through group e-mailings to all state presidents and to members appointed as UN Liaisons in the various state organizations. They, in turn, are to see that it is sent on to chapters.

However, we are frequently made aware that even though our newsletter circulation has been growing, many members throughout the Society are still unfamiliar with it. With this issue, for the first time, the emailing will be done by the office at International, rather than by your newsletter editor, in the hope that this will be a more effective means of circulation. We request that each state organization has a method in place for disseminating this newsletter. If the state president has appointed a UN Liaison, please be sure that you have sent her email address to your newsletter editor (listed on the bottom of p. 4). If there is no UN Liaison, the state president is responsible for using the state's group email to disseminate the newsletter to chapter presidents. Each chapter president should in turn email the newsletter to all chapter members.

EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE GOALS HIGHLIGHT FOCUS ON INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

The Society's newly created Educational Excellence Committee held its first meeting in October, setting forth its definition, followed by its goals for 2010-2012. As part its definition, the Committee states that it "promotes International projects." Among its goals are a number that relate specifically to Delta Kappa Gamma's status as an NGO at the United Nations, with a special focus on the Schools for Africa Project, as described in the article on the following page.

Among the other goals of the committee are: to promote the DKG/UN relationship; to increase members' global awareness; to expand and update the UN/NGO site on the DKG website; to create a UN/NGO Blog; to continue to support the development by members of curricula and resources related to global awareness (e.g. Connecticut's Peace Education Initiative); and to publicize program ideas from chapters/state organizations related to global awareness.

Grace Murphy (New York), our current United Nations NGO primary representative, is a member of this committee. On returning from the meeting, Grace commented that "working with the Committee is both an exciting opportunity and a challenge: exciting because the goals open up new opportunities throughout the Society; a challenge because it is evident that there are still many members who are not well acquainted with our UN-related and international projects and activities."

STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN TO IMPLEMENT SCHOOLS FOR AFRICA PROJECT

Cathy Daugherty (Virginia), who had previously served as chair of a special sub-committee at International to select a new service project that would continue Delta Kappa Gamma's impact on education worldwide, is now the contact person for Schools for Africa, which was voted to become an official Society project at Convention. She is currently a member of the Educational Excellence Committee and will serve the Society as an NGO representative as of January 2011.

Schools for Africa is described by the U.S. Fund for UNICEF as "a joint campaign funded by UNICEF and the Nelson Mandela Foundation to promote education for children in Africa. The campaign will increase access to quality basic education for children with a special focus on girls, orphans and vulnerable children."

In addition to expanding and updating the Schools for Africa link on the International website and publishing articles in the *DKG News* and the *DKG@UN* newsletter, Cathy plans to publish a series of newsettes, with a focus in each on one of the eleven countries served by the project. In addition to being sent to all state organizations, the newsettes will be posted on the Schools for Africa website. Cathy also intends to maintain a Schools for Africa Blog which, along with the newsettes, will solicit and publicize program ideas from chapters and state organizations as well as share updates from UNICEF, including information about DKG contributions.

One important aspect of the Action Plan is to assist the state organizations in European and Latin American countries with UNICEF contact information and ideas to use in promoting the acceptance of this project by their own countries' UNICEF offices.

Additional information about the project may be found on the Society website: Go to www.dkg.org and click on Library, then scroll down the menu to Schools for Africa. In addition, a link in the information there to UNICEF will take you to a location on the site for the US Fund for UNICEF. You may also go directly to the UNICEF site at www.unicefusa.org/dkg.

FORMAL LAUNCH OF UNITED NATIONS ACADEMIC IMPACT INITIATIVE CELEBRATED AT UN HEADQUARTERS

The formal launch event of the United Nations Academic Impact initiative was celebrated this past November 18 and 19 at the UN Headquarters. Heads and faculty of member institutions, along with members of other partner organizations, were in attendance at this event. Panels and workshops on issues of global importance, along with the formal launch, were held during the daytime sessions, followed by the closing concert on the evening of November 19. A summary of the events and texts of speeches are available on the Academic Impact website (www.academicimpact.org).

Delta Kappa Gamma members Anne-Marie Carlson and Rita King attended the opening events, while Lochie Musso and Anne-Marie were present for the closing concert in the General Assembly Hall. There were 167 college and university representatives, some of whom were the presidents of their institutions, from 40 countries in attendance at the two-day series of meetings. They represented the close to 500 hundred universities in more than 90 countries who have already joined the Academic Impact of the United Nations.

In addition to its website, Academic Impact now also has a Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ImpactUN) and a Twitter link (www.twitter.com/ImpactUN). These sites

provide additional sources of information and pictures of the launch event, including a “Declaration of Student Involvement in the United Nations Academic Impact,” as well as other UN-related items of interest to the academic community.

To our many thousands of Delta Kappa Gamma members who are affiliated with colleges and universities: If your institution is not already a member of Academic Impact, we encourage you to contact the administrative officers and suggest that they explore the benefits of membership.

[PUBLICATION OF DECLARATION OF THE DPI/NGO MELBOURNE CONFERENCE](#)

As reported in our previous issue, the 63rd Annual UNDPI/NGO Conference was held this year in Melbourne, Australia, from 30 August to 1 September. Anne-Marie Carlson (New York), Vice-Chair of the UN DPI/NGO Executive Committee, represented the Society at that conference and was involved in its proceedings. It has since been announced that the final Declaration from the conference, “Advance Global Health: Achieve the Millennium Development Goals,” was later circulated by the UN General Assembly and became an official document for general distribution. A copy of the Declaration is being sent as an additional attachment along with this newsletter.

As we consider the significance of the Society’s affiliation with the UN as a Non-Governmental Organization, it is important to note ways in which members are currently involved in activities that do indeed have worldwide implications. We may be only one of approximately 350 NGOs represented at that conference, but through Anne-Marie we were part of the Declaration’s statement that “...it is unacceptable that so many children and adults in low income countries continue to suffer preventable illness, disability and premature deaths each year.... The world knows how to prevent and treat most of the causes and has shown that well-focused efforts can significantly reduce levels of suffering.” As Anne-Marie commented, “We all need to consider our support locally, nationally and globally!”

[CTAUN PLANS FOR FUTURE CONFERENCES](#)

[New York: United Nations Headquarters](#)

Plans are now well under way for the conference scheduled by The Committee on Teaching About the United Nations (CTAUN) to be held in New York at the United Nations Headquarters on Friday, January 14, 2011. The theme of this conference will be: “Achieving the Millennium Development Goals: Teaching for Action.” (For background information about the MDGs see: www.un.org/millenniumgoals/ and www.undp.org/mdg/basics.shtml)

CTAUN is delighted to announce that the featured morning keynote speaker will be New York Times Columnist and two-time Pulitzer Prize winner Nicholas Kristof. He is co-author with his wife, Sheryl WuDunn, of the best-selling book *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*, and copies of the book will be available for sale at the Conference. Panel presentations will offer information and updates about the progress being made toward the MDGs. The morning sessions will focus on Poverty/Hunger and Environmental Sustainability, while the afternoon meeting will concentrate on Health and Education.

The closing keynote speaker will be Helen Clark, former Prime Minister of New Zealand and currently Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, the first woman to hold this position. She is also the Chair of the UN Development Group. During her three terms as

Prime Minister of New Zealand, she advocated strongly for issues of environmental sustainability, education, health and the well-being of children and older citizens.

For more about panel presenters, registration forms, and information on special hotel rates, see the CTAUN website (www.teachun.org). In order to allow for the necessary security checks, the deadline for conference registration will be January 3, 2011. Due to renovation at the UN, the Delegates' Dining Room and certain other venues in the UN building will not be available for lunch. A list of restaurants in the vicinity will be made available to registrants.

[Atlanta](#)

A fourth CTAUN conference is now being planned in Atlanta for Saturday, 5 February 2011, at the College of Education, Georgia State University. The theme will be "Educating for Action: The United Nations as a Resource." See the CTAUN website for further information.

[Austin, Texas](#)

A CTAUN Conference co-sponsored by Delta Kappa Gamma is scheduled to be held in Austin, Texas, on Saturday, April 2, 2011, at the Lady Bird Johnson Auditorium at the University of Texas in Austin. The theme is: "Global Partnerships for 21st Century Success: A UN Collaborative." Conference planning is spearheaded by a Steering Committee made up of 16 members, with others who would like to join. The committee includes representatives from Delta Kappa Gamma, CTAUN, Rotary International, AAUW, Austin Independent School District, Texas Social Studies Supervisors Association, and the Bastrop Independent School District. All planning meetings are being held at DKG International Headquarters in Austin.

UNICEF CARDS AND GIFTS HELP SAVE CHILDREN'S LIVES WORLDWIDE

Your editor was truly inspired when the UNICEF catalog for Cards and Gifts recently arrived in her mail. There are so many beautiful items, many made by indigenous people in various parts of the world, interspersed with photos and anecdotes about how children in need are being helped by the profits from these sales. Go to unicefusa.org/shop to request that a catalog be mailed to you. Or shop online for these same beautiful cards and gifts. You will be helping children worldwide!

YOUR UN REPRESENTATIVES

The members of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International listed below are your official representatives at the United Nations Department of Public Information and the Economic and Social Council. We are also all working with CTAUN. You can email us for further information.

Grace M. Murphy, NY, Primary Representative and Vice-Chair of CTAUN: gracemm630@aol.com

Anne-Marie Carlson, NY, Vice-Chair of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee and

Chair of CTAUN: dfcamc@aol.com

Rita King, PhD, NY, Consultant to CTAUN: rking1@aol.com

Phyllis A Hickey, TX, Representative to US Fund for UNICEF: phyllish@dkg.org

Lochie Musso, NY, CTAUN Secretary: lochie@optonline.net

Jackie Abbott, EdD, CT, CTAUN Best Practices Facilitator: jabbott814@aol.com.

Margaret Anzul, PhD, NJ, Newsletter Editor and UN Liaison Network Facilitator: manzul@optimum.net