

# 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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It was so exciting to walk through the halls in the Convention Center in Spokane last July, looking at posters that read “Delta Kappa Gamma: Impacting Education Worldwide,” and to see videos on the walls that presented information about the Society interspersed with videos showing scenes from the Schools for Africa Program DVD. The members present at the International Convention did indeed express their commitment to the vision of impacting education worldwide with their vote in favor of making the Schools for Africa Program an official Society project. The same theme was echoed in a number of the workshops presented at Convention, as well as in the other UN-related activities described in the articles below.

Schools for Africa is our lead story in this issue of the Newsletter, but there is much other news as well about the Society’s contributions to United Nations initiatives and to world peace, as well as ways in which the United Nations can contribute to our work as educators.

## THE SCHOOLS FOR AFRICA CAMPAIGN APPROVED AS SOCIETY PROJECT

As has been described in some detail in the past two issues of this Newsletter, members of the Society have been involved in supporting educational projects in various parts of the world for many years. At General Meeting II on July 21, at the International Convention in Spokane, the most recent of these projects, UNICEF’s School for Africa Campaign, was approved by a vote of the membership as an official Society project. This was followed by a workshop on Thursday afternoon that presented additional information about this program and materials for those present to use for implementing it when they returned to their state and chapter organizations.

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 a former issue of this Newsletter (No. 17) we described in some detail this program, which was endorsed by the Administrative Board this past January as a proposed new Society project. The project had previously been selected with much care by a special sub-committee at International, which reviewed 25 possible projects suggested by members throughout the Society before selecting the Schools for Africa Campaign. Chaired by Cathy Daugherty (Virginia), other members were Morag Gundy (Ontario), Phyllis Hickey (International Business Services Administrator), and Sigrun Klara Hannesdottir (Iceland).

Additional information about the project is being circulated in an attachment with this Newsletter, and may also be found on the Society website: Go to [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org) and click on Library, then scroll down the menu to Schools for Africa. A link in the information there to UNICEF will take you to a location on the site for the US Fund for UNICEF where the contributions of Delta Kappa

Gamma are described, with a history of its work for UNICEF over the years. How exciting to see the Society featured there!! You may also go directly to this site at [www.unicefusa.org/dkg](http://www.unicefusa.org/dkg).

### **AN ACADEMIC IMPACT UPDATE**

In previous issues of this Newsletter, the Society's NGO representatives have brought to your attention the United Nations global initiative known as *Academic Impact*, a program that aligns institutions of higher education with the UN in support of universally accepted principles in the areas of human rights, literacy, sustainability and conflict resolution. This is an opportunity for colleges and universities worldwide to become aligned with the UN in a collaborative venture.

Delta Kappa Gamma members with a connection to an academic institution may wish to encourage their institution to enroll as a member in *Academic Impact*. In fact, many have already done so. The roster of institutions currently listed as members, along with a simple enrollment form, are available on **the *Academic Impact* website**. (See <http://academicimpact.org>.)

We have now been informed that the formal launch event will take place at UN Headquarters on November 18 and 19, 2010. Heads of member institutions will be invited to attend this event, which will include panels and workshops on a number of topics of global importance during the day on both the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, followed by the launch itself chaired by Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon and an inaugural concert on the evening of November 19.

### **MICHAELLE JEAN, INTERNATIONAL HONORARY MEMBER, TO BE APPOINTED SPECIAL UN ENVOY FOR HAITI**

**Information contributed by Morag Gundy (Ontario)**

Governor General of Canada Michaelle Jean, who is the most recent honorary member of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, has been appointed the new United Nations Special Envoy for Haiti when her term as Governor General expires at the end of September 2010.

As stated by the Canwest News Service, "As special envoy to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Ms. Jean's task will be to promote and seek donor funds for reconstruction efforts in her native Haiti which was ravaged by a massive earthquake in January. This job will last four years and will begin when her mandate as Governor General ends in September.... She will be in a position to further advance the international community's response to the urgent needs of Haiti as it recovers from January's devastating earthquake.... She will also continue promoting educational and cultural initiatives in Canada through the Michaelle Jean Foundation, which helps engage youth from underprivileged, rural and northern communities."

Michaelle Jean was born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and immigrated to Canada with her family in 1968. She studied in Montreal and in Italy and is fluent in five languages. She was a prominent journalist before being sworn in as Governor General for a five-year term in 2005.

### **PLANS UNDERWAY FOR FUTURE CTAUN CONFERENCES**

#### **Indianapolis**

Registration is now underway for the CTAUN Conference scheduled for November 6, 2010, in Indianapolis, Indiana, at the Shortridge Magnet High School for Law and Public Policy, with the

theme “It’s Our World--Lessons for Peace and Reconciliation.” This conference will be co-sponsored with Kappa Delta Pi, an honor society of over 40,000 educators, with headquarters in Indianapolis. Among those on the Conference Steering Committee are Delta Kappa Gamma members Carol Herzog, Indiana State President, and Sherry Watkins, State Legislation Chair. Already scheduled to speak are Cora Weiss, President, Hague Appeal for Peace, and Mariatu Kamara, Survivor of the Sierra Leone Civil War. Breakout sessions will provide practical applications for educators at all levels.

For further information about this conference and to register on line, see the Kappa Delta Pi website [www.kdp.org](http://www.kdp.org) and click on International Initiatives. The website will provide online registration forms, mail in registration forms, the conference agenda, and the conference flyer.

#### [New York: United Nations Headquarters](#)

The Committee on Teaching About the United Nations (CTAUN) is pleased to announce that a conference to be held in New York at the United Nations Headquarters is now scheduled for Friday, January 14, 2011. The theme of this conference will be: “Achieving the Millennium Development Goals: Teaching for Action.” Plans call for additional information and registration forms to be posted by early October on the CTAUN website ([www.teachun.org](http://www.teachun.org)).

#### [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.”

#### [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 of this conference is: “Global Partnerships for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Success: A UN Collaborative.”

Conference planning is already under way, 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, American Association of University Women (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.

#### **[ANNE-MARIE CARLSON ATTENDS UNITED NATIONS DPI/NGO CONFERENCE IN MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA](#)**

The 63<sup>rd</sup> annual United Nations DPI/NGO Conference was held in Melbourne, Australia, from 30 August to 1 September, 2010. The theme of the conference was “Advance Global Health: Achieve the MDGs”. This was the first major UN conference ever to be held in Australia, and the theme was felt to be particularly appropriate in that health is an issue seen as dear to the hearts of the Australian government and its large immigrant populations from all parts of the world. As stated by UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon, and WHO Director General, Margaret Chen, “Health is the tie that binds all of the Millennium Development Goals together. If we fail to meet

our target on health, we will never overcome poverty, illiteracy, achieve universal education and meet the other MDG challenges.” See [www.undpingoconference.org](http://www.undpingoconference.org) for additional information.

Anne-Marie Carlson, Vice-Chair of the UN DPI/NGO Executive Committee, shared the following insights about her experience at the conference: “It was an honor to attend this conference along with some 1,700 representatives from 350 NGOs in over 70 countries. Its final declaration called upon ‘all government, agencies, corporations and individuals to deliver on their human rights obligations to a billion people living in poverty, by committing the finances and political will necessary to achieve the MDGs.’ ([www.un.org/millenniumgoals/](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/)). We all need to consider our support locally, nationally and globally!”

Plans are now being finalized for the 2011 conference focusing on sustainable societies to be held in Bonn, Germany in early September.

### MEMBERS TEACHING FOR PEACE IN FLORIDA

Information contributed by Ann Perrine, UN Liaison, and Barbara Wilcox (Florida)

As educators everywhere are starting the school year, we would like to share with you some “stories about peace,” inspiring ideas sent to the Newsletter from Ann Perrine, UN Liaison in Florida. They were forwarded from her DKG sister Barbara Wilcox, a kindergarten teacher in Cocoa, Florida. In 2007-2008, Barbara’s class opened the school year with a “World Community Project,” in which they sent letters to people in different parts of the world asking them to write positive thoughts and quotes. “We tally and hang them (at least one from each state/country) on a State, Country or World Map that is hanging in our main hallway.” This project has since been continued, and last year the letters requested that recipients write positive thoughts on paper “Endeavour Shuttles” (the school is named for the Space Shuttle Endeavour) included in the letters. So far they have collected over 275 “shuttles” from 32 states and 7 countries.

Barbara also told us that in September, 2009, to open the school year, “We wrote about Peace on paper pinwheels and put them in our garden.” In January all the students in the school drew and cut out pentagons and wrote “what I am going to do to create peace” on them. On the Friday prior to Martin Luther King Jr. Day, there was a school-wide Peace Promenade in which the students paraded around the school chanting “P-E-A-C-E” and dropped their pentagons into the Peace Pail. The kindergartners then took the pentagons and glued them together to form snowflake-like “pentaflakes,” which were hung to display their inspiring thoughts from the ceiling of the school cafeteria.

### 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.

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