

THE CONNECTICUT KEYNOTE



Alpha Kappa State
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society
International



Volume 71 No. 1

Fall 2011



Alpha Kappa State Fall Conference Saturday, November 5, 2011 **INCREASING GLOBAL AWARENESS**

Members of Alpha Kappa State will gather on Saturday, November 5th for the state's 72nd annual Fall Conference. The event will take place at the Courtyard by Marriott in Cromwell. **Alpha Kappa State President Marnee Straiton**, along with **Educational Excellence Chair and First Vice President Theresa Azoti**, **Educational Impact Chair Kelly Everett** and **Fine Arts Chair Faye Ringel**, have planned an informational and thought-provoking program to bring awareness to global issues. The keynote speaker will be **Grace M. Murphy, a Primary Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Representative at the United Nations**. Grace will address how the United Nations works with educators to bring timely curriculum to classrooms. In keeping with the international theme, **Zato** (from Togo in West Africa) and **Leonille** (from Rwanda in Central Africa) **Kadambaya** will share their ideas on African culture and its effects on Africa's struggle.

As the project Schools for Africa has been adopted by The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International to support and promote education for African children, **Pat O'Connell Buckley** will teach attendees the movements to an African song. The annual Alpha Kappa State Recruitment Grants and high school grants will be presented to selected college and high school students pursuing a career in education.

2011 Northeast Regional Conference

Alpha Kappa State

Well-Represented

- ⇒ 20 members in attendance!
- ⇒ 3 first time attendees!
- ⇒ 10 chapters represented!
- ⇒ 6 workshop presenters!
- ⇒ 1 International committee member!



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A Message from Marnee

Embracing the Vision and Creating the Future



Hello Alpha Kappa State Sisters,

Anne Frank said, “How wonderful it is that nobody need wait for a single moment before starting to improve the world.” You and the other women of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International are doing just that! The International vision statement, *Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide*, puts that thought in the forefront of all that we do. Many of our Alpha Kappa State sisters have helped to make this vision a reality over this past summer. **Immediate Past President, Carol Kraus**, traveled to the European Regional Conference in Baden-Baden. **Chapter Ambassador and NGO Representative, Jackie Abbott**, traveled to a UN conference in Bonn. At our Northeast Regional Conference in Hershey, PA, 20 AKS members and nine guests enjoyed the learning and fellowship that took place at our regional conferences. We made presentations, attended workshops and participated in various ways at the conference. **Pat O’Connell Buckley, Margaret Nielsen, Anita Satriano, Jeanne Morascini, Carol Kraus, and Jackie Abbott** presented a variety of break-out sessions. **Jo-Anne Kershaw** sang in the amazing choir. During the pre-conference training **Eileen Kinahan** and **Carol Kraus** attended a workshop on the Strategic Action Plan; **Joan Krantz** and **Jo-Anne Kershaw** were involved in Membership; **Terry Azoti** was in attendance in the Educational Excellence workshop; **Marnee Straiton** participated in the State Presidents’ training; **Donna Chaney** attended the State Treasurers’ workshop; and **Carol Beam** was at the State Editors’ workshop. We were honored to have our **International President Dr. Jensi Souders, Chapter Ambassador and Headquarters Operations Services Administrator Phyllis Hickey and Headquarters Information Services Administrator Linda Eller** as our guests at our Alpha Kappa State dinner on Thursday evening.

At home, we had a productive August board meeting, helping to set our course for the up-coming year as leaders on the educational scene in Connecticut. Several of our focal points for the current biennium will be highlighted as we promote Schools for Africa, explore the DKG/UN relationship and increase our global awareness. Look further on in the *Keynote* for more details and directions to our new conference location at the Courtyard by Marriott in Cromwell.

Here are the focal points of this biennium for Alpha Kappa State. I encourage all chapters, all committees and all members to work together to move Alpha Kappa State forward by *EMBRACING THE VISION AND CREATING THE FUTURE*.

- To develop and begin implementation of an Alpha Kappa State Strategic Action Plan
- To strengthen chapters through growth, diversity and building a strong lattice of leadership
- To support early career educators, making DKG a leader in this endeavor
- To promote Schools for Africa
- To encourage programs that
 - ◊ increase members' personal and professional pride
 - ◊ focus on educational excellence
 - ◊ promote the DKG/UN relationship
 - ◊ increase global awareness
 - ◊ impact educational law and policy

Marnee

ΔΚΓ MISSION STATEMENT

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.



Fall Conference

Fall Conference Keynote Speaker: Grace M. Murphy

A Global Perspective: The United Nations, the Classroom and You

Alpha Kappa State is pleased to announce that **Grace M. Murphy** will be the keynote speaker at the Fall Conference. Grace is Primary Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) to the Department of Public Information at the United Nations and Vice Chair of the Committee on Teaching About the United Nations (CTAUN). Grace brings us her vast U.N. expertise in her keynote presentation: ***A Global Perspective: The United Nations, the Classroom and You.***

Grace received her B.A. in English from Notre Dame College in Staten Island, N.Y., her M.A. in English from New York University and a professional diploma in Administration and Supervision from St. John's University in New York. Her professional career spanned being a high school English teacher, a high school assistant principal in charge of Pupil Personnel Services and an adjunct professor of English at Staten Island Community College.

Grace is a 42-year Delta Kappa Gamma member of Alpha Beta Chapter in Staten Island, N.Y. She served as chapter president from 2008-2010. She was a member and chair of the Leadership Development Committee for Pi State, New York. Presently, Grace is a member of the International Educational Excellence Committee.

In her community, Grace is a coordinator of Bridges to Hope. This outreach program to single mothers and their children in New York City Housing Authority homes encompasses South Beach, Staten Island.

Members of Alpha Kappa State look forward to meeting and to hearing Grace on November 5th.

Learn an African Dance with Patricia O'Connell-Buckley

In keeping with the Fall Conference theme, *Increasing Global Awareness*, and the *Schools for Africa* project, **Patricia O'Connell Buckley** of Theta Chapter, Connecticut's representative to the International Educational Excellence Committee, will teach us the movements to an African song, *Ndakuvara*. The song is from an album recorded by Oliver Mtukudzi, a musician from Zimbabwe. The movements were composed by Pat Taylor of North Carolina, the DKG International Music Representative. Patricia taught the song and dance movements to state Educational Excellence chairs at the pre-conference training prior to the start of this summer's Northeast Regional Conference in Hershey.

The International Educational Excellence Committee, established by the 2010 International Convention, promotes International projects, supports early-career educators and encourages programs and activities that further educational excellence worldwide, including the Schools for Africa Project, which will help nearly 5 million African children gain access to quality basic education. The project has a special focus on girls, orphans and vulnerable children. Delta Kappa Gamma is partnering with UNICEF to train over 100,000 teachers and build or rehabilitate 1,000 schools. At the Fall Conference we will also see a DVD about the *Schools for Africa* project. All chapters are encouraged to participate in this worthy International endeavor.

Faye Ringel Alpha Kappa State Fine Arts Chair



A special thank you to the reviewers for *The Keynote*:

Theresa Azoti

Judy Cody

Jo-Anne Kershaw

Jeanne Morascini

Margaret Nielsen

Sandra Petrucelli-Carbone

Nancy Roy

Marnee Straiton



Fall Conference



Zato Kadambaya



Leonille Kadambaya

Could African Culture Be Blamed for the Continent's Struggles?

Alpha Kappa State is pleased to welcome Zato and Leonille Kadambaya to the Fall Conference. In keeping with the theme of *Increasing Global Awareness*, Zato and Leonille will address the question *Could African Culture Be Blamed for the Continent's Struggles?*

Zato was born in Togo in West Africa, and Leonille was born in Rwanda in Central Africa. They received their higher education degrees in the United States and live in Plainfield, Connecticut, with their two children. Mr. and Mrs. Kadambaya are committed to their family and community. When they revisited their home countries, they decided that they wanted to give opportunities to children there through health and education initiatives. Thus, they founded Africaphilantropies, Inc. as a U.S. based non-profit organization, with Zato as the Executive Director and Leonille as the Second Deputy Director.

Mr. Kadambaya began his first grade education at the age of 11 in Africa. He earned his 6th Year Certification from Central Connecticut State University in 2010, his M.A. from UConn in 2004, his M.S.E.E. from UConn in 1999 and his B.S. from Central State University, Ohio, in 1995. He is Mathematics Department Chair at Norwich Free Academy. He is also a member of the Program Committee of the Connecticut Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development. In addition, Mr. Kadambaya is an Adjunct Professor at EastConn and teaches AP Calculus. He was the Connecticut State Department of Education BEST seminar presenter in 2006.

Mrs. Kadambaya earned her M.A. in Special Education from UConn in 2003 and her B.S. from Central State University, Ohio, in 1997. She has been teaching in the Groton Public Schools since 1998 and is currently a Special Education teacher at Fitch High School. She has taught students with various special needs in both middle and high school. Mrs. Kadambaya does presentations in schools focusing on African life, culture and education. She also conducts educational workshops for African communities in Connecticut in the areas of Special Education laws and parental involvement.

Conference News Flash



Kimberly Albro, a member of Zeta Chapter for three years and teacher in the Hartford Public Schools, has graciously accepted an invitation to exhibit at the Fall Conference in conjunction with our theme of *Increasing Global Awareness*. She has prepared a display trifold with photos of her August 2008 trip to Malawi, Africa, for Habitat for Humanity. Kimberly helped build houses for the disadvantaged and has stories to share about her adventures. Check out her website at www.lifeisajourneynotadestination.shutterfly.com. and stop by to see Kim at the conference!



Smart Money



When I was about five years old, my mother gave me a weekly allowance of 25 cents. The clear instructions were to keep a nickel for God's work and save a nickel for "hard times." I could spend the rest as I wished. If I wanted something special, I could increase my savings. The lesson was well learned and it guided my spending habits for life. Perhaps you learned the same lesson since teachers' salaries were never generous. Today I consider my church donations to include any contributions to causes THAT I BELIEVE IN.

DKG has been granted the status of tax deductibility for a number of its causes. Previous tax deductible items included the Educational Foundation and any UNICEF contributions that supported our work in Gambia, Central America, Afghanistan or Africa. If you want to support the Schools for Africa Project, go to www.dkg.org or www.unicefusa.org/partners/ngo/delta-kappa-gamma-society.html. Donations may be mailed to 125 Maiden Lane, New York, NY 10038. I recommend that you print two copies of the form and be sure to state your chapter and state in the memo line.

NEW tax deductible funds include World Fellowship, Scholarship, Golden Gift, Eunah Temple Holden Leadership, Educators Award, International Speakers, Loretta Halek Memorial, as well as the Emergency Fund. Donations are mailed to The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, Box 1589, Austin, Texas 78767-1589. Make a duplicate copy for your tax records. Your canceled check can also serve as a receipt, if you bank on-line. You can also make a credit card contribution by going to the DKG Web site (www.dkg.org).

If you are old enough to be receiving Required Minimum Distributions from past investments, consider making a direct donation to a fund from your portfolio. Your financial advisor can help you. This removes the money from your income as long as you do not receive the money first. You will not be taxed if the money goes directly to the fund. The maximum distribution for 2011 is \$100,000.

You may also want more information on the DKG Planned Giving Program. Please contact Phyllis Hickey at International Headquarters (phyllish@dkg.org).

Margaret R. Nielsen
AKS International Funds Chair
 MRNielsen@aol.com 203-322-3976

Take note . . .

Alpha Kappa State Outstanding Service Award

Alpha Kappa State Outstanding Service Award is presented to outstanding community volunteers who, without thought of recompense, devote time, energy and caring attention to the children and youth of Connecticut. Recipients are not required to be members of Delta Kappa Gamma. Undoubtedly, many worthy candidates within Connecticut's individual communities deserve recognition and honor of our Outstanding Service Award. This award is given at the Spring Convention in even-numbered years.

Outstanding Service Award Nomination Form and Procedure:

- Nominations may be made by chapters or by individual chapter members.
- Complete the nomination form available at www.deltakappagamma.org/CT/ describing the nature of the nominee's volunteer work.
- Include two letters of recommendation from chapter members, youth or community members who have knowledge of the nominee and his/her volunteer work.
- Submit nomination form and additional documentation by mail to Colleen Spieler, 960 Bunker Hill Ave., Waterbury, CT. 06708. Form is due by February 15, 2012.

Colleen Spieler
Alpha Kappa State Outstanding Award Chair



2011 Northeast Regional Conference First-Timers' Perspectives

The "sweetest" place in Pennsylvania-Hershey Park- was the perfect location for the Northeast Regional Conference 2011! From the start, there was an amazing energy within the group; and I found out it was much more than the sugar buzz from all the chocolate!

I felt very welcomed by the ladies of Alpha Kappa State. At my first workshop, I was paired with **Carol Kraus**. We attended the Strategic Action Plan work session. It was interesting to meet women from all over the country to discuss the various components of the workings of their chapters. I found it very helpful to work with other members who have already begun to develop a Strategic Action Plan.

After my workshop during the day, there was a welcoming session for "First Timers." I was delighted to be greeted by **Marnee Straiton** and **Terry Azoti**, who joined me for the session. It was so kind of them to take time out of their busy day to join me. I joined them for dinner before we were off to celebrate Pennsylvania Night!

I was in for a big surprise! When I say "celebrate," I mean CELEBRATE. At first, there was a flag ceremony and special presentation for honored guests. Next, there was a full night of dancing, singing and eating!!! There was a wide selection of food that had special meaning for the [state of Pennsylvania](#). There was an amazing dance show highlighting dancers of all ages and backgrounds. The finale of the night was a Dueling Piano performance. Picture it: Two pianos facing each other, one starting off with a roaring tune and the other piano challenging that performer with another popular song with the ladies of Delta Kappa Gamma joining in singing and dancing! It was quite a sight to see all the moving and grooving until late in the night!

On my second day, there was an opening session and a luncheon with an introduction of many of the people who helped make this conference happen! One of the highlights of the morning was an outstanding performer, Kate Campbell Stevenson. She engaged the audience with interactive, dynamic skits to highlight the biographies of important women of American History. We also had a number of opportunities to choose different "break-out" sessions on a wide variety of topics. One of the sessions I attended provided information about applying for funding for educational projects or professional development. To close the day, the ladies of Alpha Kappa State met for a wonderful dinner at a quaint restaurant in nearby Harrisburg.

Overall, I felt the energy and enthusiasm for Delta Kappa Gamma was just contagious! Our Pennsylvania hostesses were so welcoming and excited with such a tremendous turnout. All the members were friendly, and it truly felt as if I was among friends. I would like to encourage any member who has never attended a regional conference, or a veteran member who has not attended a summer conference in some time, to "catch" the enthusiasm!

Eileen Kinahan
Nu Chapter President

Since joining Delta Kappa Gamma 10 years ago, I had heard rave reviews about the quality of Regional and International Conferences/Conventions; and my first experience at the Northeast Regional in Hershey did not disappoint! I will now be one of the many members telling others, "You just have to attend a conference, if you ever get the chance."

So many choices and opportunities! Each day there was a general assembly with an outstanding keynote speaker. Varied, informative and interesting workshops presented by chapter members including Alpha Kappa State members were offered. Sessions included: technology, women's history, literacy, science, storytelling, fund raising, Educational Excellence, membership and finance. Excursions were offered, and there was enough free time for members to sightsee and find chocolate....lots and lots of chocolate!

If this is all the Conference offered, it would have been reason enough to attend; but I found that I returned home with a greater understanding of Delta Kappa Gamma, all that it offers and all that it represents. I encourage everyone to attend an upcoming conference or convention "if you ever get a chance."

Deborah Brownell
Iota Chapter President



**2011 Northeast Regional Conference
Reflections**

“Embracing Our Vision – Designing Our Future”

Have you ever wanted to visit the “Sweetest Place on Earth?” If you answered “Yes!” to that question, then Hershey, Pennsylvania, **was** the place for you to be in July for the Northeast Regional Conference. Being together with other Alpha Kappa State sisters and meeting new Delta Kappa Gamma sisters from other states was an experience I hope many of you will have the opportunity to take advantage of in the future. For me, this was not only a time to go “beyond Beta Chapter” but also to learn and get excited about the full scope of the Society. In addition, singing with the chorus was a highlight of the week, especially as we performed during the banquet.

A ride through Lancaster and dinner with an Amish family was quite special. The peaceful lifestyle and tranquility of the farm is what I visualize when life gets hectic in Connecticut. I can still hear the song that the family sang for us at dinner and see the fireflies as night approached.

There were many exceptional speakers and workshops. **2010-2012 International President Dr. Jensi P. Souders** inspired us with her positive approach and passion for how we can grow personally and professionally through Delta Kappa Gamma. Her sense of humor and “down-to-earth” presentations were over all too quickly for many of us. **Kate Campbell Stevens** brought to life historical women with “can do” attitudes. These women held fast to their dreams and provided positive, courageous role models. **Anne E. Beiler**, founder of Auntie Annie’s Pretzel’s, shared her personal vision and how it grew into an international endeavor. Her story was a remarkable one of deep personal struggle, perseverance and ultimate success.

“Women Living Through Positive Spirituality” gave us a reality check. Are we living QUALITY lives? Are there ways to increase our happiness and satisfaction without having to sign up for some formal program? **Dr. Bettie Bertram** shared her thoughts on this topic that was most enjoyable to me.

July 2011 has passed; however, there will be many other times and places for us to be together. In addition to our chapter meetings, the International Convention will be held in New York City, July 24-28, 2012. Also, Portland, Maine, will host the 2013 Northeast Regional Conference, July 24-27. If you believe in, “Make new friends, but keep the old, one is silver and the other’s gold,” then I’ll be seeing you in New York and Maine.

**Jo-Anne M. Kershaw
Alpha Kappa State Membership Committee**



Alpha Kappa State First Vice President Theresa Azoti with Alpha Kappa State President Marnee Straiton



(l. to r.) Carol Reeves (Delta), Alpha Kappa State Membership Chair Joan Krantz, Alpha Kappa State President Marnee Straiton and Jo-Anne Kershaw (Beta)



Alpha Kappa State Immediate Past President Carol Kraus with Alpha Kappa State President Marnee Straiton



AROUND THE

ALPHA

Alpha Chapter gathered in July for a luncheon hosted by **Anne Modugno** at her home followed by a concert at Caramoor. The concert included works by Charles Ives and Aaron Copeland. Members had great fun visiting and feasting. The executive committee met in July to plan Alpha's program for the fall. The first meeting was held September 22nd at **Janess Coffina's** home for wine and cheese to celebrate the new year and visit with each other. A directory of members created by **Mary Ruth Allen** was shared.

In October, Alpha will meet at Cos Cob library to hear poet Sally Blumus-Dunn share poems from her book *Second Skin*. Sundries will be collected for the chapter's service project necessity bags for Nathaniel Witherell Rehabilitation and Nursing Center. Shop Smart/Do Good shopping at the Stamford Lord & Taylor store, Alpha's annual fund raiser to support the Alpha Virginia Obrig Memorial Book Grant, will be held on Wednesday, November 2nd, and will be directed by **Elinor Carr**. All Alpha Kappa State members, family and friends are invited to come.

BETA

The Beta Chapter board met in July to plan the dates, places and agendas for the meetings this year. There will be four general business meetings and two social fund raising meetings. Each meeting will feature special presentations on educational subjects relevant to health, stress and lifestyle; story books for children; and a talk from our long-time honored **Beta Treasurer Carolyn Dickens**, retired high school principal in Bridgeport.

The meetings will be held in Stratford, Trumbull and Monroe. Members will donate money and items for charities in the area. Money is also raised for the chapter's end-of-year grant to a worthy student majoring in education. Two additional socials, hosted by **Suzanne Burr Monaco** at her home in Trumbull, have been scheduled to make cards for people in convalescent homes and for a fund raising tea to raise money for the grant and chapter business.

GAMMA

Gamma Chapter ended the year on a high note. The executive committee, as well as anyone who wanted to help plan for next year, were guests of **Jeanne Morascini** for a delightful late breakfast/early lunch. There were 12 members present. Jeanne's deck was the perfect setting on that clear summer morn. The proposed budget was reviewed and a few changes were made. The locations, times and programs for next year's meetings were set. Finally, a nominating committee was established to begin the process of finding officers for the next biennium.

The first meeting will be October 5th at Uncas School Library in Norwich. Preceding the meeting, there will be an

Orientation session for four recommended members. They will be initiated during the meeting. Gamma members will also be saying fond farewell to **Judy Pflum**, Gamma member and recent Alpha Kappa State Achievement Award recipient, who is moving back to her native Colorado to be closer to her family. Members will hear a presentation update on Haiti from Gamma's new Honorary Member Marilyn Lowney of the Haitian Health Foundation. Since the Haitian Foundation is one of the chapter's ongoing philanthropies, a contribution toward their good work will be given to Marilyn.

Gamma's next meeting will be a musical program on December 8th at Norwich Free Academy. At that meeting a food drive for the Norwich Food Kitchen will take place.

DELTA

Three members of Delta Chapter, **President Joan Krantz, Carol Reeves** and **Carol Beam**, attended the Northeast Regional Conference in Hershey, PA. Delta Chapter has selected *Rhythms of the Year* as this year's theme. The October 1st meeting was held at Watertown High School. Members brought donations of school supplies; and "New Teacher" bags were completed to help Early Career Educators, a focus of International. The theme for this meeting was *Anticipating New Rhythms*. The DVD *Schools for Africa*, which is a project supported by International, was shown.

Rita Caruso, a retired business teacher in the Litchfield School System for over 35 years, was initiated. Rita brings great experience both in education and community involvement to Delta Chapter.

President Joan Krantz has challenged members to exceed last year's donations of 2,108 diapers which were donated to the Greater Waterbury Diaper Bank. Joan has set a goal of 2,500 diapers for this year. In lieu of several fund raisers to support the chapter's annual book grant presented to an area high school student pursuing a career in education, members are asked to purchase tickets at each meeting. At the first meeting the prize was free membership in Delta Chapter for the year.

At the December meeting, Dr. Paula deSilva, Haitian Health Ministry Coordinator and leader of the Mothers and Babies Sewing Project, will be the guest speaker. Paula will speak about her efforts to help mothers and babies in Haiti and Sri Lanka. Members will then help to cut, fold and stitch for the project.

ZETA

Zeta chapter was pleased to have the following five members attend the Northeast Regional Conference in Hershey this past July: **President Kim Carew, State Treasurer Donna Chaney, State First Vice President Terry Azoti; State Sunshine Chair Linda**



NUTMEG STATE

Amarante, and Zeta Zone Editor Carolyn Downs.

Zeta members learned more about their experience at the **Welcome Back** meeting on September 20th, at Clintonville School in North Haven.

Zeta Chapter will hold an orientation for 12 prospective members on October 4th, in preparation for their Initiation dinner meeting to be held October 19th at Pompeos Restaurant in Branford. Young women just starting their teaching career along with recent retirees make up this outstanding group of women. Thanks to their sponsors for bringing these women to Delta Kappa Gamma and, especially, to Zeta Chapter.

The long-anticipated annual brunch and auction will be held Saturday, November 19th at Cascade's in Hamden. This is the event where the proceeds help to fund Zeta's two scholarship grants and to provide monies for other needy charities selected by the membership. Member **Elayne Canter** will again preside as auctioneer! An invitation is extended to all Alpha Kappa State members to attend and join in the fun of the brunch/auction.

THETA

The new academic year is off to a great start for Theta members. The first meeting was held on August 16th at the home of member **Sharon Bartlett**. Everyone enjoyed the glorious views and a delicious picnic supper after the business meeting. The second meeting will have an international theme as members gather on October 22nd, two days before United Nations Day, bringing ethnic luncheon dishes to share. Birthday cards will be signed for World Fellowship recipients.

The Executive Board has brainstormed a number of new ideas for the year to get more members involved and is looking forward to a great year. Theta members will also continue their work with Books for Babies, Journey House and the local Soup Kitchen.

IOTA

Iota members met in May at Sarah Noble Middle School in New Milford for a presentation on retirement. This outstanding program by Robert Scalzo, President of the Northern Fairfield County Retired Teachers Association, was a presentation of meaningful information for teachers who are years from retirement, teachers nearing retirement and teachers who had previously retired. The chapter planning meeting was held this summer at Iota President **Deb Brownell's** Stonington home. While enjoying beautiful weather and great views, members made plans for upcoming meetings, made decisions for fund raising of Iota's two grants and discussed ideas for the service project that members will support this year. The fall meeting is the easiest planning decision. Iota members love having lunch at Hopkins Inn, looking out at Lake

Waramaug and the changing foliage. This first meeting was held on September 17th. Unlike some other chapters, Iota voted to support a different local organization each year. In past years, a member of the selected organization has been invited to speak at the December meeting. Monetary contributions and needed supplies have been donated to the selected organization.

MU

This summer the Mu Chapter Executive Board met to plan the 2011-2012 year. **Jeanne Morascini** graciously hosted the Board and prepared a delightful lunch. The activities were planned. The first meeting was held at the Stanley-Whitman House in Farmington, CT on September 21st. This National Historic Landmark brings to life colonial times. A tour of the building and a light supper were provided to the sisters.

The other meetings through the year will highlight the Delta Kappa Gamma spirit of giving. In November, members will hold the annual Food Drive. The meeting at Irving A. Robbins School in Farmington will highlight a speaker from a local food pantry who will explain the needs of the people in the area. Mu Chapter feels the importance of giving to others. Other drives for the year involve Interval House and Books for Babies. Scholarships will also be awarded. The Chapter is in the process of recruiting new members and hopes to build its membership.

RHO

On July 27th, Rho Chapter met at the South Windsor Public Library to organize the meeting calendar for 2011-2012. The first meeting of the new year will be a dinner meeting on Oct. 5th at Angellino's Italian Restaurant in Vernon. This meeting will include fellowship and a brief business meeting to introduce everyone to the meeting calendar and events planned for this year. On Nov. 9th, there will be a jewelry/beading workshop at South Windsor Public Library. Present members are encouraged to bring guests to participate in this activity. The book discussion meeting on *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* will be held in January. On March 21st at the Somers Public Library, members will view and discuss the Delta Kappa Gamma DVD *Schools for Africa*. A tea for potential new members is planned for April. A fund raising restaurant event is planned for late April or early May. The final meeting will be a potluck dinner, initiation of new members and installation of officers on May 23rd, at Crandall Pond Lodge in Tolland. Members will also participate in the popular book swap and sharing at this meeting. Rho Chapter has decided to continue collecting non-perishable food items from members at each meeting for a random drawing to donate to a food bank in the Rho area. The executive board is looking forward to a successful year of activities to encourage active participation.



ALPHA KAPPA STATE 72nd FALL CONFERENCE

Saturday, November 5, 2011
 Courtyard by Marriott
 4 Sebethe Drive, Cromwell, CT 06416
 Phone: 860-635-1001

EMBRACING OUR VISION: DESIGNING OUR FUTURE INCREASING GLOBAL AWARENESS

8:15 a.m.	Registration and Chapter Sales
9:00 a.m.	Welcome and Introductions
9:15-10:15 a.m.	Grace Murphy: <i>A Global Perspective: The United Nations, the Classroom and You</i>
10:15-10:30 a.m.	Break
10:30-11:30 a.m.	Zato and Leonille Kadambaya: <i>Could African Culture Be Blamed for the Continent's Struggles?</i>
11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	Break, Chapter Sales and Exhibits
12:15-1:15 p.m.	Lunch
1:15-1:45 p.m.	Patricia O'Connell Buckley: <i>Dance to Ndakuvara</i>
1:45-2:00 p.m.	<i>Schools for Africa</i> Project: DVD
2:00-2:15 p.m.	Recruitment Grants
2:15-2:30 p.m.	Closing Remarks and <i>The Delta Kappa Gamma Song</i>

REGISTRATION FOR THE CONFERENCE

Please send form below with your meal choice(s) and check made out to:

Delta Kappa Gamma, Alpha Kappa State

Mail to: Deborah Brownell, 323 Upper Grassy Hill Rd., Woodbury, CT 06798-2528

Phone: (203) 263-0821 dbrownell@charter.net

DIRECTIONS TO COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT

Traveling North or South: I-91 North or South to Exit 21, turn right at end of exit.

Turn right at the Burger King onto Sebethe Drive. Hotel is on the right.

From New York City/Bridgeport: I-95 to I-91 North to Exit 21. Follow directions above.

Parking is at front, side and back of hotel.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE OCTOBER 22, 2011

Name: _____ Chapter _____

COMPLIMENTARY COFFEE and TEA available from 7:30-9:30 a.m. (no breakfast available)

Check your choice(s) below:

___ Roasted Top Sirloin, Sliced and Topped with Mushroom Sauce	\$33.00
___ Maple Glazed Salmon, Pan Seared Filet with Maple Glaze	\$32.00
___ Chicken Breast with Traditional Herb Stuffing	\$30.00
___ Pasta Primavera with Parmesan Cream Sauce	\$29.00

(All entrees include: Garden Salad, Seasonal Vegetables, Fresh Rolls, Dessert, Coffee/Tea)

IF YOU HAVE ANY FOOD ALLERGIES, PLEASE INDICATE HERE: _____

CONFERENCE COSTS:

Registration fee	\$ 5.00
Guest Name/s: _____	Lunch Cost/s (see item checked above) _____
Choice _____	GRAND TOTAL _____

CHECK HERE IF YOU WOULD LIKE 0.2 CEUs (CONTINUING ED HOURS) _____

YOU **MUST** SIGN IN FOR THE MORNING SESSION AT THE REGISTRATION DESK AND HAVE YOUR EIN # IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CEUs.

Please complete Photo Release Permission:

"I grant permission to Alpha Kappa State of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International to use my photograph in *The Keynote* and/or on the State website." Please initial the box.

Photo Release: Yes No



Alpha Kappa State Communications Committee Supports New Biennium Endeavors

Alpha Kappa State Communications Committee strives to keep our membership well informed of the functions, projects and activities at the Chapter, State and International levels. **The Keynote**, the official newsletter of our state, is published four times each year. Along with other publications, it provides the effective flow of information to our members regarding upcoming events like conferences and conventions at all levels, highlights of chapter events and achievements, as well as details of chapter projects which are numerous and varied. Our website, www.deltakappagamma.org/ct, provides much of the same information along with listing important information regarding scholarships/grants, committee newsletters/reports, various applications for a variety of awards, chapter/state officers and much more. This year we hope to explore more options that would be of interest to our members such as a presence on Facebook to increase publicity and communication.

The Communications Committee also supports efforts and goals of the International Society which encourage members to make the Society more visible by distributing news of our endeavors and professional achievements to the public sector and to prospective members through a variety of media. The Committee is excited and enthused by the goals of our new **State President Marnee Straiton**, along with the implementation of the Alpha Kappa State Strategic Action Plan. We commit ourselves to providing all state members with the focal points of the programs that **EMBRACE THE VISION AND CREATE THE FUTURE**.

Please consider volunteering to help us with our commitment to provide increased communication to state members and the community at large. Contact **Judy Cody** at YDOC37@aol.com

Judy Cody
Alpha Kappa State Communications Chair

Membership Update

“ A diverse membership base is a strong membership base.” --taken from *Membership Basics from A to Z*



What is your Chapter’s profile? What is your Chapter’s vision? Have you developed a plan to achieve your vision?

Don’t forget the 12 x 12 Initiative, which is 12 new members by December 31, 2012. Many chapters have already made great strides to achieve this goal. Be sure to send your information to Donna Chaney by October 31st so your chapter’s progress can be displayed on the banner at the Fall Conference on November 5th.

Every chapter’s goal should be 12 new or reinstated members, to include at least two new members from a new educational environment.

Please bring “recycled” pins for the Service Awards to any Executive Board meeting. Thanks.

Joan Krantz
Alpha Kappa State Membership Chair

I want to sincerely thank my Alpha Kappa State sisters for all their expressions of love and concern and for the many notes and cards of sympathy that were sent when my brother, Clem, passed away from a glioblastoma brain tumor this past May. Many of you met him at the Spring Convention when he came to support me as I received the State Achievement Award. He was also instrumental in helping me to obtain some wonderful speakers for past conferences and conventions. Your loving support was and is deeply appreciated. God bless you for your kindness.

Warmly,
Nancy M. Roy



Save

2011—2013
Alpha Kappa State
Executive Board

President Marnee Straiton: marnees@sbcglobal.net
First Vice-President Theresa Azoti: tazoti@optonline.net
Second Vice-President Joan Konareski: joan.konareski@snet.net
Recording Secretary Dorothy Shackway
Secretary to the Executive Board Linda Shea: hshea@snet.net
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Assistant Treasurer Joan Haffey: hjoey87@aol.com
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Chairs of Standing Committees
Society Business

Archivist Carylrae Clinge: carylclinge@att.net
By-Laws and Standing Rules Judy Salemme:
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Publications Carol Beam: d.w.beam@snet.net
Website Anita Pfluger: pflugerdunn@sbcglobal.net

Society Mission and Purposes

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Curriculum of Hope Anita Satriano: agsinbl87@comcast.net
Educational Excellence Theresa Azoti: tazoti@optonline.net
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Margaret Croft Honorary Fund Susan Carpenter:
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Outstanding Service Award Colleen Spieler:
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The Keynote is published four times per year.
 Only the Spring and Fall issues are sent by U.S. Mail.

The Summer and Winter issues are
ONLY published on the AKS website.

All issues are available on the website.

<http://deltakappagamma.org/CT/>

If you are unable to access the internet, please contact your
 chapter president.

Keynote Deadlines are December 1, 2011
 February 29, 2012
 May 25, 2012

**THE CONNECTICUT
 KEYNOTE**

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NEXT KEYNOTE DEADLINE: December 1, 2011

Send information to Carol Beam
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 or e-mail to <d.w.beam@snet.net>

Alpha Kappa State Schedule
Enhancing the Vision and Creating the Future

November 5, 2011

Alpha Kappa State Fall Conference
 Courtyard by Marriott (Cromwell)

January 21, 2012

Snow Date: January 28, 2012

Alpha Kappa State Executive Board Meeting
 II Monticello (Meriden)

February 3, 2012

Conference on Teaching About the United Nations (CTAUN)

March 24, 2012

Snow Date: March 31, 2012

Alpha Kappa State Executive Board Meeting
 II Monticello (Meriden)

April 28, 2012

Alpha Kappa State Convention

June 29, 2012

Alpha Kappa State Leadership Conference

July 24-28, 2012

International Convention
 New York City