



Alpha Kappa State
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society
International



Volume 71, No. 4

Summer 2012

Spring Convention Highlights

DKG First Vice President Alice Carrier International Guest

It was an honor to have Alice Carrier, International First Vice-President, as the Society's Representative at the AKS Spring Convention. Alice shared information about the DKG International Convention which will be held in New York City from July 24-28, 2012. She issued a challenge to all members attending the Convention to bring a chapter member who would be a first-timer to experience the excitement of an International Convention. When the sister attends the NYC DKG Convention, she will be able to feel our vision which is: *Leading Women Educators, Impacting Education Worldwide*. Chapters were also encouraged to view a PowerPoint presentation entitled *Sustaining Pride in the Big Picture*.

Alice shared some fascinating statistics with AKS members. DKG has 2,600 chapters in 17 countries. The Education Foundation has given \$3.1 million since 1964. Individual members have used the money to fund special projects. The Society has raised \$70,800 for the Schools for Africa Project.

Alice informed members there is a new *Go-to Guide* handbook which will help chapters be more successful with everything they will need to know to be a better chapter. She spoke of the need for the organization to support Early-Career Educators and informed us that there are many grants and monies that are available. One of her main points was that in order for the organization to grow, we need to invite educators to DKG; and we must support,

(Continued on page 5)



Coast Guard Academy Ensemble Sings for Alpha Kappa State

Attendees at the Spring Convention in Cromwell were treated to a thrilling demonstration of musicianship and patriotism by an ensemble from the Coast Guard Academy's Cadet Glee Club, under the direction of Dr. Robert Newton. Officers in the U.S. Coast Guard are not selected for their ability to sing, yet these 13 young men and women showed that a love of music can be a desirable quality in a future Guardian of our shores. Listeners reported goosebumps, and tears sparkled in more than a few eyes at the mixture of patriotic anthems, sea-songs and Broadway melodies. The cadets introduced themselves, and members learned that two of the singers are graduating and will

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Focus on Early Career Educators at the 2012 Fall Conference!

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A Message from Marnee

Embracing the Vision and Creating the Future



Hello Alpha Kappa State Sisters,

Building the Leadership Lattice

One biennium is ending, and a new biennium begins. That is the pattern in our Society. Especially during this time of change, mentoring, knowledge of the purposes of DKG, and empowerment are all essential in building a strong lattice of leadership.

A leadership lattice builds support for new officers. A leadership lattice provides a model for future chapter leaders. A leadership lattice strengthens the chapter, the state organization and DKG International.

Out-going officers and past officers need to offer the in-coming officers their support. Spend time with the person taking on your position. Go through the materials associated with your job. Discuss together what should be kept, what should be discarded and the reasons for those decisions. Provide them with the resources they will need to do their new job. Be a caring and informative mentor, willing to share and able to empower the new leader.

Suggest that up-coming leaders shadow new officers as they work their way through the first months of their new office or committee assignment. Help them to understand the responsibilities of those positions. Let everyone know that there is a planned structure for support of those in leadership roles. Experienced and new members should take a role in supporting new chapter leaders in their new jobs.

Take time to orient and reorient **all** members in the Purposes of the Society. These Purposes unite us all and clearly delineate the work of the Society. We are all working toward the same goals. Keeping our Purposes in the forefront of the chapter activities will build the DKG knowledge and leadership base. Knowing what you are working toward enables empowered leaders.

Work with your new chapter leaders to continue to strengthen the leadership lattice. Offer the support they need. Take in as much information as possible and work as a team. Together we make better decisions; we accomplish more and we impact education worldwide.

Marnee



The Seven Purposes of Delta Kappa Gamma

To unite women educators of the world in a genuine spiritual fellowship;

To honor women who have given or who evidence a potential for distinctive service in any field of education;

To advance the professional interest and position of women in education;

To initiate, endorse, and support desirable legislation or other suitable endeavors in the interests of education and of women educators;

To endow scholarships to aid outstanding women educators in pursuing graduate study and to grant fellowships to non-member women educators;

To stimulate the personal and professional growth of members and to encourage their participation in appropriate programs of action; and

To inform the members of current economic, social, political, and educational issues so that they may participate effectively in a world society.



2012 CTAUN CONFERENCE

On February 3rd, the Committee on Teaching About the United Nations (CTAUN) held its annual conference at the United Nations in NYC. **Barbara Schroeter, Nancy Cetorelli, Anita Pfluger and Carolyn Verna** represented Beta Chapter at the all day conference to hear several notable people speak on the topic *Education IS a Human Right*. Three DKG long-time members **Chair Anne Marie Carlson, Vice-Chair Grace Murphy and Coordinator of Best Practices Awards Dr. Jackie Abbott**, a member of Alpha Kappa State, were all significant contributors and promoters of CTAUN.

In the morning session, Chair Anne-Marie Carlson gave an overview of the agenda for the day and introduced the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations Asha-Rose Migiros, who welcomed everyone to the United Nations. This was followed by a panel discussion moderated by Dr. Barbara Reynolds, Senior Advisor of Special Projects for UNICEF. The topic of the discussion was *Access to Quality Education: Removing Barriers and Bottlenecks*. Other members on the panel included a Liberian refugee survivor, an Ambassador and representative of Bangladesh to the UN and Carol Bellamy, the Chair for Global Partnership for Education. After the panel discussion, the spotlight focused on Meg Gardiner, Chair for the U.S. Campaign to Ratify the Convention of the Rights of the Child.

Dr. Jackie Abbott presented the 2011 Best Practices Award to Joan Monk and Cecilia Dinio-Durkin of AAUW for their Poughkeepsie Branch Project, *My Sister's Keeper* (MSK).

The afternoon session consisted of another panel discussion moderated by Dr. Gwen Benson, Associate Dean of the College of Education at Georgia State University. The topic of discussion was *Taking the Global Pulse of Education: Current and Emerging Agents of Change*. Other panel members consisted of a visiting research scholar from Columbia University, an associate professor at the University of Rochester, an executive director for A Legacy of Giving and a technology teacher at NYC Department of Education. A dialogue followed the panel discussion and was facilitated by the Director in the New York Office of UNESCO.

The coordinator for CTAUN, Eileen Venezia, followed all with a Special Feature talk, *Inspirations - Education IS a Human Right*. Major issues introduced at the Conference were about creating Universal/Global Norms and Standards which involve partnerships with people, governments and each country's education plan. Moving from local to global education requires programs which eventually lead to laws that address quality education for people in all countries of the world and through the use of technology to establish rules for local governance.

Barbara Schroeter, Beta Chapter President



~Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

Latest News from CTAUN

Visit the website: <www.teachUN.org>

There's a whole new section on teacher resources from primary grades to adult reference. A Peace Corps reference looks interesting.

- ◆ A February 3rd Conference Report is online .
- ◆ A conference will be held in Austin on September 22nd entitled *Promoting Tolerance: Solutions for Change*.
- ◆ The next NYC Conference will be held on January 18, 2013.
- ◆ Keep a watch out for the Atlanta report on *Water* recently completed.

**Margaret Nielsen
AKS International Funds Chair**



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ALPHA KAPPA STATE OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR 2012

Joan Lowe



**Colleen Spieler presenting
the award to Joanne Zammit,
Alpha Chapter, for
Joan Lowe**

Recommended by Alpha Chapter, Joan Lowe is a retired Greenwich High School social worker who recognized the need for a literacy volunteer program in Greenwich. She set up and is running the Greenwich Reading Champions. Joan is tireless in recruiting volunteers through her friends, Greenwich High School staff and the sisters of Alpha Chapter. She now runs a volunteer program of over one hundred people operating in nine elementary schools and three after-school programs assisting over three hundred and fifty students. Joan also does all the fundraising to support the children and volunteers of the Greenwich Reading Champions and provides volunteer reading workshops. Letters of recommendation were presented by Alpha Chapter volunteers for Greenwich Reading Champions **Joanne Zammit, Martha Awdziewicz** and **Janet Stroble**, as well as **Alpha Chapter President Nancy Wolf**.

Mary T. Keane

Recommended from Beta Chapter. Mary T. Keane was nominated by **Anita Pfluger**, Webmaster for Alpha Kappa State. Mary Keane is a community leader for environmental causes and an advocate for women and children throughout the world. The following are some of the causes she champions. She is a founding chairperson of the Trumbull Nature Commission, and she had a direct impact on purchasing the three hundred eighty-two acre Pequonnock River Valley State Park. She also published a book called *Proud to Be Me: An Essay of Photographs and Poetry*. This book celebrates the beauty, resiliency and accomplishments of the children of Bridgeport. Mary recruits host families to facilitate the Educational Home Stay Program by finding homes for students from other countries with local families during the summer months. Mary is the Non-Governmental Representative to the United Nations for the Trickle Up Program. She has helped with volunteering for the model UN program at Trumbull High School. In addition, Mary and her husband are wonderful neighbors helping in times of crisis like snow storms and illnesses. Mary demonstrates concern, kindness and compassion for all human beings. Letters of recommendation were received from Katie Boland, social studies teacher from Trumbull High School, Elizabeth Northrup and **Anita Pfluger**, Alpha Kappa State Webmaster.



**Colleen Spieler,
AKS Webmaster Anita Pfluger
and award recipient
Mary T. Keane**

Richard Witten

Recommended by Beta Chapter, Richard Witten is a retired principal from the Trumbull Public Schools. He has had a direct impact on the educational path for Beta member **Jo-Anne Kershaw** in her educational development. After retirement, Richard decided to volunteer and works tirelessly for the Brennan-Rogers School in New Haven. This is a "turn-around school" in an urban area. He volunteers four days a week in the literacy program for math and reading. Richard provides support, encouragement and companionship for struggling students. The following is a sample of some of his duties: managing work centers, correcting papers, providing reading support to small groups and working one-on-one with students. The are just a few comments provided by the second grade students at the Brennan-Rogers School. 'Mr. Witten is joyful and loving.' 'He helps with math...and Reader's Workshop.' 'He coaches us...we love him.' 'We love him, we love him, we love him...' What wonderful recommendations from the people that count – children! The second grade students, **Jo-Anne Kershaw** from Beta Chapter and Christine Guerrera, second grade teacher from Brennan-Rogers School, all showed their belief in Mr. Witten by writing letters of recommendation.



**Jo-Anne Kershaw, Beta Chapter
and Colleen Spieler present
award to Richard Witten**



(Continued from page 1) Alice Carrier
 embrace and nurture them in order to keep them in the chapter. It was a pleasure to have Alice Carrier as the Society Representative at the Spring Convention, and it is hoped that many AKS members will see her again in July at the International Convention.

Cheryl Purnell
AKS Educational Impact Committee Member

(Continued from page 1) U. S. Coast Guard Glee Club
 report to their first assignments soon. The program ended with a rousing rendition of Lee Greenwood's *God Bless the USA*. With modesty and pride, the cadet singers demonstrated that they believe it is an honor to serve.

Faye Ringel, Professor Emerita of Humanities,
U.S. Coast Guard Academy
Alpha Kappa State Fine Arts Chair

AKS Outstanding Service Award Recipients (continued)

Joan Weisman



Joan Weisman, who was unable to attend the AKS Spring Convention was recommended by Iota Chapter. Joan has been the guiding force for the Jewish Federation of Greater Danbury's Reading Partner Program for over twelve years. She plans, executes and arranges for all new Reading Partners to volunteer in their future schools. With Joan's vision, passion and talent to mobilize a community, participating Danbury schools now number thirteen with one hundred plus volunteers giving of their time to help children become life-long readers and better citizens. Joan and her husband Fred volunteer together. In June of 2011, Joan and Fred found out that the Ellsworth Summer Camp would have to be cancelled for lack of funding. They generously took funds from their foundation to make the summer camp a reality. Joan received letters of recommendation from Jan Edwards, Reading/Language Arts Specialist from Ellsworth Avenue School; Beth Lyons, Language Arts Specialist from Pembroke School; Lynda Burd, Language Arts Specialist from the King Street Intermediate School; Jackie Morrison School liaison from Shelter Rock School, as well as from **Deborah L. Hocking** an Iota member.

Colleen Spieler
AKS Outstanding Service Award Committee Chair

Educator Appreciation Promotion

[AARP Driver Safety](#) is celebrating teachers and school personnel this summer through its Educator Appreciation Promotion! In recognition of their generosity in teaching and helping others, current and retired educators and school personnel are invited to attend an AARP Driver Safety classroom course for just \$5 in July and August (course is normally \$12 for [AARP members](#) and \$14 for [nonmembers](#)). The online course is \$15.

For those of you who wish to receive a rate reduction in your automobile insurance, consider checking out the FREE classes offered to current and retired teachers from July 1 to August 31 this summer. Contact your insurance company to determine the discount you would receive by taking the AARP Driver Course. Connecticut and New York have mandatory discounts. Check the website for classes in your area. (www.AARP.org/drive) Enter your zip code to determine the nearest four hour course. New York residents are required to complete a six hour course. If you don't have access to a computer at home or at the Public Library, phone 877-846-3299 for dates and locations.

Margaret Nielsen
AKS International Funds Chair



AROUND THE

ALPHA

Alpha Chapter began the fall with a social gathering at **Janess Coffina's** home in September. Members shared their summer adventures with wine and cheese. Planning for the Lord and Taylor Benefit Bash which funds the Virginia Obrig Memorial Book Grant took up time as well. In October, members met at the Cos Cob Library to collect items for necessity bags to be given out to residents at Nathaniel Witherill Retirement Home during the holidays. November had everyone shopping at Lord and Taylors where over \$1000 was raised for the Book Grant.

At Christmas time, the annual meeting was held at Diane's Book Store hosted by **Alpha's Honorary Member Diane Garrett**. She presented book reviews for gift purchase. Those in attendance also bought books for children who would otherwise not be given books as Christmas gifts. This is enabled by picking an angel from the Angel Tree with the child's gender and age and then matching it with a book.

The poet Sally Blimus-Dunn read from her published poetry in January. Members enjoyed hearing poems from *Talking Underwater* and *Second Skin*.

In April, Alpha met at **Mary Ruth Allen's** home for pot-luck to recommend possible new members. **Judy Petersen** was welcomed back as a member. She then presented a storytelling workshop which was fascinating. Several types of folk and fairy tales were highlighted.

The chapter's annual banquet was held on May 22nd at Royal Green in Stamford. **President Lucy Galasso**, and **First Vice-President Clare Harding** were installed. Alpha Book Grant awards went to Greenwich High School seniors who are planning to attend college with the hope of becoming teachers. They are Jessica Brooks, planning to attend the University of New Hampshire and Westin Sibley, planning to attend Vassar. Membership anniversaries were acknowledged: **Nancy Wolf**, 40 years; **Judy Allen**, 30 years; **Claire Fishman** and **Karen Nagy**, 25 years; and **Alice Neal**, 15 years.

BETA

Beta Chapter members met on March 27th at the Trumbull Library. A prospective member, Karin Stenberg Layton who teaches at Villa Maria School in North Stamford, was voted into membership. Villa Maria is a private co-educational school which services students with learning disabilities. The new officers for the 2012-2014 biennium were voted on, and the committee chairs were named. **Margaret Hull** and **Stacy Weinstein** were honored by **Sandra-Petrucci Carbone**, for their work on the Beta's Standing Rules Revision Committee.

The featured speaker was Clinical Nutritionist Annette Alfieri. She spoke about *Stress, Nutrition, and Lifestyle*. Donations of food were collected for the Trumbull Food Bank.

On May 17th, the last meeting of the year took place at Stanziale's Restaurant in Stratford. Initiation of new member,

Karin Layton Stenberg took place. Members also voted on another prospective member, Lisa Ryan. New Beta officers were installed: **President Jan Isenberg**, **First Vice-President Stacy Weinstein**, **Second Vice-President Vivian Manzione** and **Recording Secretary Margaret Hull**. **Diane Strever** remains Corresponding Secretary, and **Carolyn Dickens** stayed on as Treasurer, along with **Trudi Black** as Parliamentarian. Two Service Award Certificates and Pins were presented to **Jacqueline Norcel** for 25 years and **Katheryn Nissen** for 30 years. Donations of books and toys for children were collected to support the Operation Hope Program in Fairfield.

Evelyn Montagnino and **Donna Seidell** announced the end-of-year Grant to be awarded to Victoria Pfohl from Trumbull High School for her excellent work and accomplishments in her school and community. Victoria plans to attend Eastern Connecticut State University this fall to become a teacher.

The featured speaker for the evening was long-time honored member and Beta **Treasurer Carolyn Dickens**. Carolyn's topic was *The Superintendent's Educational Reform Plan in the Bridgeport Schools*. Her PowerPoint Presentation outlined several aspects of the new proposals that would alter the organizational structure of the Bridgeport Public Schools.

GAMMA

The Executive Board planned so well in late January that Gamma members enjoyed being part of two of the best chapter meetings in recent years. In mid-March members met at the Frank Center on the Norwich Free Academy campus. Before being served a delicious meal, arranged by **Peg Weaver** and **Karen D'Auria**, **Faye Ringel** introduced Dr. Judith Youngman, a professor at the Coast Guard Academy and some years ago the first woman to teach cadets at West Point. Dr. Youngman spoke about "Women in the Military: Breaking Out of the Glass Box." Her talk reached back to the Revolutionary War but focused on the twentieth century. It was at this point that members learned of **Jeanne Morascini's** Korean War service. What an amazing woman Jeanne is, and what amazing roles women have played in every war we have fought!

At the May meeting, several members of Gamma chapter shared information. **In-coming President Reggie Tate** enthusiastically summarized the main themes and outcomes of the Spring Convention.

Out-going President Jeanne Morascini then urged members to move forward with determination and energy.

Finally, **Alpha Kappa State President Marnee Straiton**, who honored Gamma with her presence, encouraged all to attend the June Leadership Conference in New London and the July International Convention in



NUTMEG STATE

NYC. Marnee stressed something that all members have come to realize: DKG is made special by its people to people connections at the local, state, national and International levels. Those are the very connections that led to honoring **Nancy Buckley**, a deceased past president, with a donation to the library of the school where she was once principal. Gamma is especially grateful to **Linda Shea** who has designed a book plate that will accompany future book donations.

Congratulations were also sent to **Carolyn Andrews** who has been a Gamma member for thirty years. Finally, **Anne Mahalawich**, also a past president and one of the longest members of Gamma, was lauded for outstanding service by **Sue Danilowicz**, **Eileen Akers** and **Trish Dean**. Ann was given a citation sent by Mayor Peter Nystrom on behalf of the city of Norwich and pinned with a red rose. She then regaled members with stories from her many years spent in the classroom.

In terms of administrative matters, **Trish Dean** and **Elaine Porter** conducted the Installation Ceremony. **Reggie Tate** was sworn in as president, along with her team: **Linda Shea**, **Roz Etra**, **Eileen Akers**, and **Gerry Transue**. **Barbara Kosegarten** will continue as treasurer. In October, three new members who were voted in during the business meeting will be initiated: Leonille Kadambaya, Lisa Marien and Cynthia Pisowloski. Marilyn Lowney will also be initiated as an Honorary Chapter Member.

Members made the traditional Memorial Day tray favors for Backus Hospital, using materials collected by **Vicky Baker**. **Jeanne Morascini** was profusely thanked for stepping up and serving as chapter president these past two years. **Sue Danilowicz** read a poem she composed to honor Jeanne, and **Reggie Tate** presented Jeanne with a glass-domed music box holding a red rose. Jeanne had a parting gift for everyone who helped her during her tenure. In addition to the community outreach through tray favors, Gamma made many young mothers at Madonna Place very happy when **Barbara Dombrowski** delivered a trunk full of diapers and socks that had been collected at the March dinner meeting. Finally, as part of Teacher Appreciation Day, Gamma members ate cake and ice cream to give them the energy to get home.

DELTA

At its May meeting, Delta chapter initiated five new members—**Nicole Knott**, a high school media specialist; **Sybil Haggard Chamberlain**, a high school Mathematics teacher; **Michele DeCesare**, a high school Mathematics teacher; **Theresa DeCesare**, a high school Social Studies teacher; and **Janet Galasso**, a high school Art teacher. Delta is proud to say that it has met its goal of twelve new or reinstated members by 2012.

New officers were installed for the 2012-2014

biennium. They are **President Mary Jane Miller**, **First Vice President Monica Kreuzer**, **Second-Vice President Paulina Auclair** and **Recording Secretary Mary Lou Kuegler**.

Delta Chapter lost another member during this last year. **Dr. Martha Counts**, a member of DKG since 1960, died on April 17, 2012. She was an active member in Delta Chapter during the 1980's and 90's. During WWII, she worked with the Intelligence Department and shared her love of history as a college professor for 23 years. Members of Delta Chapter will miss her.

Delta Chapter initiates for the 2011-2012 year

EPSILON

During the 2010-2012 biennium, Epsilon Chapter has continued with many of the traditions and projects of the past years with some new additions. The 2011 year ended with the final meeting on June 2nd at the Wood 'n Tap Restaurant in Rocky Hill. **Carylrae Clinge**, Past President and Alpha Kappa State Chapter Ambassador, gave an overview of the *Creating Pride in the Big Picture* document. Carylrae highlighted the important and inspiring information of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.

The fall meeting was held at Chuck's Restaurant in Rocky Hill in October. Alpha Kappa **State President Marnee Straiton** attended and complimented the chapter on the number of new young teachers and the accomplishments of its members.

Members gathered at the home of **Pamela Solnik** in December for the annual holiday meeting. A lovely dinner was served, and members exchanged "grab bag" gifts and brought toys for Mercy Housing & Shelter.

The March meeting was held at the home of **Arlene Lastrina**, who provided a delicious buffet supper for seven members and two guests. **Joan Dudack** spoke to the group about her work as an adult ELL teacher, and guest Erin La Fleche thanked Epsilon chapter for its donation to *Specs for Little Heroes*, a program for children with Retinoblastoma.

Epsilon Chapter presented the Celebration of Life ceremony at the Alpha Kappa State Spring Convention and planned a Tastefully Simple potluck lunch meeting in June at the home of **Carylrae Clinge**. New officers for the 2012-2014 biennium will be installed.

ZETA

Zeta Chapter held its final meeting of the 2010-2012 biennium on June 6th at the Whitney Center in Hamden, a new venue for Zeta's end of the year Sundae Social.

Immediate Past President Mary-Ellen Coloski presided. Installation of officers for the 2012-2014 biennium was held. **President Roz Gambardella**, **First Vice President Toni Cartisano**, **Second Vice-President Anne Murphy**, **Recording Secretary Rosina Hurley** and **Cor-**



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responding Secretary Carole Franceschet were installed. **Claudia Grantham** was appointed chapter treasurer. The guest speaker was local author Mary Ann Dawson speaking about her book, *The Keys: Unlocking the Door to Who You Are*. Members appreciated her tips on creating positive energy to enhance one's life.

Service pins were presented to **Dorothy Martino** for **50 years** and to **Barbara Torcellini** and **Louise DiRuccio** for **25 years** of service. Congratulations to all for their contributions to Zeta Chapter during these combined **100 years**. Refreshments were enjoyed along with the annual 'make your own sundae' dessert. Members were given an opportunity to sign up for 'Teams' to assist with managing each meeting during the year and for the various committees that carry out chapter business.

Zeta members wish to thank **Outgoing President Kim Carew** for her fine leadership this past biennium. Several members will be attending the NYC International Convention in July and look forward to this exciting event and to sharing their experiences with the membership in September.

THETA

Theta Chapter recently celebrated its 55th birthday. Chapter members met at the Clubhouse at Freedom Green in Mansfield Center for an evening of reminiscing, dinner, birthday cake, the initiation of seven new members and the installation of officers.

Members were treated to letters from **Phyllis Hickey**, former Theta member and now International Operations Service Manager, and from former Chapter President **Jeanne Morascini**, who was with Mu Chapter that evening. A catered dinner followed, and then several members presented the history of Theta Chapter which was enjoyed by all. All past presidents in attendance then joined around the birthday cake and blew out the candles!

That evening Theta Chapter proudly presented a number of service pins to its members. **Ellie Decker** and **Mary Lou Keables** were honored for their 50 years of service, **Madge Vining** and **Dee Hammon** for 30 years (also **Mary Phelps** who was unable to attend) and **Marge Grant** for 25 years! It was an honor that they were present that evening! It was with great sadness that members had a moment of silence for the chapter's 40 year recipient, **Chapter Honorary Member Eva Loew**, who had recently passed away.

Theta Chapter used the new Initiation Ceremony. It involved a number of members and was well received. The new initiates are **Katie Firth**, a grade four teacher at Sweeney School in Willimantic; **Raquel Luna**, a reading tutor at Natchaug School in Willimantic; **Anneliese Parsell**, a literacy and ELL tutor at Natchaug School in

Willimantic; **Sandra Popeleski**, a reading consultant/teacher at E. O. Smith High School in Storrs; **Kelly Putz**, a first grade teacher at Sweeney School in Willimantic; **Megan Reed**, a reading tutor at Natchaug School in Willimantic and **Lauren Townley**, a third grade teacher at Natchaug School in Willimantic. The following officers of Theta Chapter for the 2012-2014 biennium were then installed: **President Susan Salesses**, **First Vice-President Ann Grosjean**, **Second Vice-Presidents Anne Soracchi** and **Jane Schrieber**, **Recording Secretary Sharon Bartlett** and **Corresponding Secretary Susan Moon**. **Joan Haffey** will serve as Treasurer.

The Theta Executive Board will meet at the end of the month to plan out the next biennium. The chapter looks forward to an exciting next two years.

MU

Mu Chapter ended the year in the same giving spirit that it started the year. The weather put a damper on giving early in the 2011-2012 school year; but by March, the chapter had donated much food to the Farmington Food Pantry. By May three \$1000 scholarships were presented to graduating senior girls who wish to become teachers. In June, members will gather again to bundle Books for Babies to give to new mothers at the Hospital of Central Connecticut in New Britain. Along with all of the Mu giving, individual Mu sisters continue their own charitable works. **Chris O'Connor** and **Ann Newbury** both drive for the American Cancer Society Road to Recovery. They transport patients who need treatments.

At the May meeting, **Scholarship Committee Chair Dr. Sally Swanson** awarded grants of \$1,000 each to Katherine Katehis, a senior at Lewis Mills High School who will be going to the University of Connecticut; Anne McPherson, a senior at Farmington High School who will be attending Middlebury College; and Kristina Naka, a senior at Newington High School who will be going to Central Connecticut State University. **Chris O'Connor** and **Jan Ferraris** conducted the Initiation Ceremony for two new members. **Carol Brown** and **Susan King**, both retired from the Canton schools, were welcomed into the chapter. Installation of officers for the 2012-2014 biennium concluded the meeting. The officers are **President Patty Faulkner**, **First Vice-President Ann Wilkins**, **Second Vice-President Janice Ferraris**, **Recording Secretary Carolyn Hallifax**, **Corresponding Secretary Shelley Lloyd** and **Treasurer Ann Newbury**. Members thanked **Jeanne Morascini** for serving as Mu Chapter president during the past biennium and presented her with parting gifts.



NUTMEG STATE (continued)

RHO

Rho Chapter met on May 23rd with a potluck dinner at Crandall Lodge in Tolland. There were 19 members and one guest, our own **AKS President Marnee Straiton**, in attendance. **Jennifer Williamson**, a kindergarten teacher in South Windsor, was initiated into Rho. **Gloria Matthews**, a 30-year member, received her pin from AKS President Marnee Straiton. A new slate of officers were installed for the 2012-2014 biennium, which includes **President Pat Piatek**, **First Vice-President Susan Nadeau**, **Second Vice-President Karen Newcomb** and **Secretary Margaret Festi**. A successful fundraising raffle was held raising \$110.00 for the Channel Three Kids Camp. The four bags of non-perishable food items donated will go to the Tolland food pantry. A Book Swap was also held for members and guests to discuss a book they brought and take a book donated by another member. A very interesting collection of books quickly disappeared from the Book Swap table. Rho's next big event will be participating in the Willington Green Flea Market on September 8th. Members will sell tag sale treasures as a chapter fundraiser. Members were encouraged to spend part of their summer collecting and getting items ready for this sale.

Alpha Kappa State Seeking Nominees for State Honorary Members

All chapter members are reminded that the Alpha Kappa State Membership Committee is seeking nominations of new state honorary members to be initiated at the November 2012 Fall Conference.

'An honorary member shall be a woman not eligible for active membership who has rendered notable service to education or to women, and is elected to honorary membership in recognition of such service.' (*Constitution and International Standing Rules 2010, Article III, Section B*)

Use Form 11, Recommendation for Membership, to make the recommendations. Forms are due by September 1st to **State Honorary Membership Chair Susan Salesses, 180 Alton-Bradford Road; Bradford, RI 02808**

If there are any questions regarding recommendations, please contact Susan at cell (860) 208-9035 or smags457@gmail.com



Mu Chapter awards three scholarships to high school seniors. (l. to r.) Kristina Nako, Katherine Katehis, Anne McPherson, Outgoing President Jeanne Morascini and Scholarship Chair Dr. Sally Swanson

An Invitation to Serve Alpha Kappa State

The AKS Nominations Committee will be preparing a slate of officers for the 2013-2015 biennium for first vice-president, second vice-president and recording secretary. The committee is also accepting nominations for three candidates each for the finance committee and for the nominations committee to serve from 2013-2017. A nominating form needs to be filled out for each candidate, and permission of the person must be secured before her name is recommended for nomination. The nominations form can be found on the Alpha Kappa State website.

Nominations committee members will be contacting chapter presidents. Be thinking now if you or members in your chapter are interested in serving in one of these positions. Nominating forms are due to the Nominating Committee Chair by December 1, 2012.

Sandra Petrucelli-Carbone, AKS Nominations Chair
 607 Juniper Court
 Oxford, CT 06478
spcdkg@comcast.net



IN MEMORIAM



Lucy May Bartlett Crosbie, Theta January 1, 2012

Lucy May Bartlett Crosbie was initiated into Theta Chapter of Alpha Kappa State as an Honorary Member in 1978. A graduate of Natchaug Grammar School in Willimantic and Dean Academy in Franklin, Massachusetts, she received a B.S. degree from Boston University School of Management in 1951.

Lucy May was the fourth generation of her family to serve as publisher of the Willimantic Chronicle from 1954 until 1992. She remained as president of the Chronicle until 2011. Over the years, she wrote thousands of editorials and articles for the newspaper and was known for her vigorous support of efforts to benefit the civic and economic life of the community. She had a long and distinguished career of service in local and area civic and professional organizations. Those who worked with her remember her as wonderful, warmhearted, spirited, a great humorist, an astute observer of life and people, a loyal friend....and one of the best journalists we've ever had in New England.

Mary Frances Braheney, Mu February 3, 2012

Mary Frances Braheney was initiated into Epsilon Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma in 1956. She became a Charter Member of Mu Chapter in 1958. She served as Mu Chapter's Professional Affairs Chair from 1963-1964, Personal Growth Chair in 1971 and Corresponding Secretary from 1969-1970.

Mary Frances was a graduate of New Britain Teachers' College, currently CCSU. She completed graduate work at the University of Hartford and Fairfield University. She worked for the West Hartford Public Schools for 34 years and was passionate about her kindergarten teaching at Whiting Lane School. She also supervised student teachers from Saint Joseph's College.

She retired early and dedicated her life to caring for her beloved sister. They spent summers at Lake Hayward with family and friends.

At the time of her passing, Mary Frances was a Reserve Member of Mu Chapter. She will always be remembered for her dedication and professionalism as an educator, as well as her indomitable spirit and optimism in life.

Anna Theresa Wilinich, Beta Chapter February 20, 2012

Anna Theresa Wilinich was initiated into Kappa Chapter of Alpha Kappa State in 1980. While active, she was a permanent member of the Ways and Means Committee. She was the Kappa Chapter Historian and Photographer for at least ten years until she could no longer attend meetings.

Anna worked for Fairfield Public Schools and retired in 1983 after 34 years. As a teacher, she was dearly loved by her kindergarten students and their parents because of her gentle, soft-spoken and positive ways. She never raised her voice and approached all things with a calm manner and loving smile. As a teaching colleague, she was interested in helping new teachers and supporting them in any way possible.

Anna kept up with educational issues and spoke her mind about them. She was a teacher advocate and a staunch supporter of the local, state, and National Education Associations. She was a life time member of the Connecticut Education Association and the National Education Association. She belonged to the Retired Teachers of Fairfield, the Greater Bridgeport Retired Teachers Association of Fairfield and the Association of Retired Teachers of Connecticut.

After she moved to Pennsylvania from Connecticut, she chose to remain a Kappa Chapter member and insisted on paying Active dues. When Kappa Chapter voted to end the chapter, she transferred to Beta Chapter. She continually donated money to all fund raisers. A year or so after her transfer, she became a Reserve Member.

Anna was extremely proud of being a member of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. She informed her daughters that upon her death she wanted her DKG key pin and 30 years of service pin returned to DKG. Those who knew Anna miss her warmth and positive approach to life.



Spring Convention Photos



AKS Webmaster Anita Pfluger with AKS website consultant/designer, Carol Haines



Honoring Our Members: (l. to r.) Shirley Wilkinson (Mu) 40 years, Eleanor Decker (Theta) 50 years, Claire Fishman (Alpha) 25 years, Nancy Wolf (Alpha) 40 years and Mary Lou Keables (Theta) 50 years



DKG First Vice-President Alice Carrier, International Guest, lights a candle during the Celebration of Life



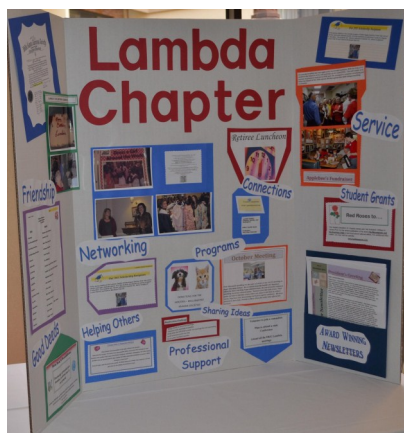
Katherine Nunn, Epsilon Chapter watches as Jeanne Morascini places a white rose during the Celebration of Life



AKS President Marnee Straiton welcomes members and guests to the 2012 Spring Convention



Margaret Festi with Rho Chapter's display board depicting activities and community service



Lambda Chapter display board



Members of Omicron conduct Birthday Celebration (l. to r.) Arlene Clancy, Gail Gibbons and Kathleen Lozinak



Welcome to Alpha Kappa State

**Congratulations to all the new
Members as of
May 21, 2012!**

**We look forward to your energy and
enthusiasm.**



Mu Chapter initiates

Alpha

Sara Anderson Chiapetta - Stamford
Judy Petersen - Stamford
Rene Slade - Greenwich

Beta

Karin Layton Stenberg - Fairfield

Delta

Sybil Haggard Chamberlain - Torrington
Michele DeCesare - Waterbury
Theresa DeCesare - Naugatuck
Janet Galasso - Oakville
Nicole Knott - Seymour

Zeta

Eileen Maust - Wallingford

Theta

Katie Firth - Manchester
Raquel Luna - Jewett City
Annelise Parsell - Columbia
Sandra Popeleski - Mansfield Center
Kelly Putz - Willimantic
Megan Reed - Ashford
Lauren Townley - Hebron

Lambda

Judy Costa - Meriden
Anne Sharnick - Southington.

Mu

Carol Brown - East Granby
Susan King - Bristol

Nu

Karen Curth- Darien

Rho

Jennifer Williamson - South Windsor




Delta Chapter 2011-2012 initiates

**Joan Krantz,
AKS Membership Chair**



COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE AWARDS



Congratulations to the recipients of the 2012 AKS Chapter Newsletter Awards

Zeta—Most Newsworthy
Lambda—Most Creative
Delta—Best Overall



Congratulations to the following chapters that also submitted newsletters and/or tri-folds:

Alpha	Beta
Gamma	Theta
Mu	

Special Communication Excellence Award presented to Tau Chapter for creation of the very first AKS Chapter Website!

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



Terry Azoti
 Judy Cody
 Jo-Anne Kershaw
 Jeanne Morascini
 Sandra Petrucelli-Carbone
 Nancy Roy



AKS Communications Chair Judy Cody presents Most Newsworthy Newsletter Award to AKS Photographer and Zeta Chapter Newsletter Editor Carolyn Downs



***Alpha Kappa State
Embracing the Vision
Creating the Future***

Dates to Remember

Friday, June 29, 2012

Leadership Conference

U.S. Coast Guard Academy, New London

July 24-28, 2012

International Convention

New York City

September 8, 2012

Alpha Kappa State Board Meeting

Place TBD

November 3, 2012

AKS Fall Conference

Courtyard by Marriot, Cromwell

January 19, 2013

Snow Date: January 26, 2013

Alpha Kappa State Board Meeting

Place TBD

March 23, 2013

Snow Date, March 30, 2013

Alpha Kappa State Board Meeting

Place TBD

April 27, 2013

AKS Spring Convention

Courtyard by Marriot, Cromwell

**Alpha Kappa State Fall Conference
Saturday, November 3rd
Courtyard by Marriot
Rocky Hill**

Focus on Early-Career Educators

Hope to see you all there!



Still time to join in the fun and excitement of the 2012 DKG International Convention in New York City

Approaching Deadlines

June 24: Last day to register for New York Convention without a late fee.

July 6: Last day to sign up for Convention Tours in NYC. Form available on line. Go to www.dkg.org and type in **Tours NY** to find the interactive registration form.

THERE IS STILL ROOM on the AKS bus chartered by Iota Chapter for Wed., July 25th. Please contact **Deb Brownell** at <dbrownell@charter.net>. Participate in the Convention activities, then join your AKS sisters for dinner at Rosie O'Grady's before boarding the bus for home.

Photography for *The Keynote* contributed by
Alpha Kappa State Photographer
Carolyn Downs

NEXT KEYNOTE DEADLINE:
September 3, 2012

Send information to Carol Beam
267 Ivy Drive
Bristol, CT 06010-3308

or e-mail to <d.w.beam@snet.net>

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



Vision Statement
*Leading Women Educators
Impacting Education Worldwide*