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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

Number 13

Spring 2009

Five years have passed since we began publication of this Newsletter. We started work in May 2004 on what was to become our first issue. As we stated then, “We do not think it is a coincidence that we began the writing of this newsletter on the very day—May 11, 2004—of the 75th anniversary of the founding of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. During this Diamond Jubilee year we take great pleasure in looking back and honoring the work of our founders, but in their spirit we also look forward....”

We are again looking forward, this year, during our Society’s 80th anniversary. Changes are under way in our work at the United Nations. The lead article below focuses on the end of the Afghanistan Education Program, which will require a change in our work with UNICEF. Also, because the United Nations building is now undergoing renovations, we must re-think how CTAUN will organize its conferences for educators in the near future. In addition, CTAUN is now involved in a new UN initiative—Academic Impact—that we expect to be focusing on further in the years ahead.

THE AFGHANISTAN EDUCATION PROGRAM COMES TO AN END

It was with sadness that our International office learned that the U.S. Fund for UNICEF will be unable, after June 30, 2009, to facilitate the Afghanistan Education Program. A notice to this effect has been posted on the International website, which explains that the basic commitment of the U.S. Fund is to provide unrestricted funding unless the donors are able to guarantee a contribution of \$50,000 or more a year. Delta Kappa Gamma is not in a position to do that unless in concert with other groups, and those with whom we were joined are no longer participating.

Notification of the change was received at International from Kate Weber, Director for NGOs for the U.S. Fund, who wrote that they were “tremendously grateful” for the Society’s contributions. “Thanks to your generous and loyal support...UNICEF has provided assistance with...teacher training, school and child protection, the provision of teaching and learning materials, and support for community-based schools.” In reply, International President Dr. Carolyn Rants stated: “We have had heartfelt attachment to helping teachers in Afghanistan and regret the project’s ending.”

[Celebrating Our Achievements](#)

The Afghanistan Education Program is the latest in a series of UNICEF initiatives we have supported to sponsor fund-raising for education in some of the world’s most needy areas. In 1996 we contributed \$52,951.56 to the Gambia Project, which provided funds to help girls remain in school. In 1999, we joined in the Pro-Maya Project and contributed \$16,375.06 to assist children and their schools in Chiapas, Mexico. In July 2003, the Society was invited to support a partnership for teacher education in Afghanistan. Teachers were able to meet at the provincial

level for training in lesson design and teaching methods. As of May 1, 2009, the Society had contributed \$194,139.85 to this program, and donations are still coming in.

[Spotlighting Our Members' Contributions](#)

[Recognition for the Society](#)

In 2007 a presentation was made during a general session at the Northeast Regional conference by Kate Weber from the U. S. Fund to then International President Dr. Barbara Day for the contributions that the Society has made to UNICEF over the years, which at that time totaled nearly a quarter of a million dollars for the three projects with which we had been involved. NGO reps Phyllis Hickey and Anne-Marie Carlson were credited for their efforts in making Delta Kappa Gamma worthy of this award. We are proud of these leaders, and also proud of the countless individuals, chapters, and state organizations that made the award possible.

Phyllis Hickey reported at this 2007 conference on the enormous difference we have made for teachers in Afghanistan as they work to get girls back to school. Phyllis was honored on the same occasion by Northeast Regional Director, Laura Drake, for her outstanding work on our behalf.

[Piloting UNICEF Curriculum Materials](#)

Members have also contributed by piloting UNICEF curriculum materials. This project was led by Rosemary Morrow, who is Director of Social Studies Curriculum for the State of Texas. Through her, social studies teachers at the middle and high school levels in Texas were given the opportunity to participate in a pilot program using these newly-produced curriculum materials designed to enhance global understanding. (See the website www.teachUNICEF.org.)

[“We Sing for the Children” CD](#)

The 2008 Convention in Chicago saw the debut of a beautiful CD featuring an original song, “We Sing for the Children,” composed by Janice H. Moen, who was then International Music Representative. The CD was produced in collaboration between the Society and U.S. Fund for UNICEF, with donations of \$15 or more benefiting the Afghanistan Education Program. Others featured on the CD include the voices of Afghan teachers, UNICEF officials, and Clay Aiken, U.S. Fund for UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador. Janice’s song was featured at Convention, and since then this CD has been used in many fund-raising activities, including the ones below.

[An Accolade to member Jo Ladd Clark](#) of Kappa Chapter in Kent, Washington, who sells Mary Kay make-up products. Recently she held an open house—dinner and all—for Kappa members and her other clientele. Members who purchased a certain amount were given a free CD of “We Sing for the Children.” She used her profits for CD donations, earning a total of 14 for her clients.

[...And News from Washington’s UN Liaison.](#) Last January your editor received a copy of a newsletter circulated in Washington by that state’s UN Liaison, Charlotte Kornholst, about UN-related activities in her state. Here are further comments about her work: “Several chapters reported discussions about the Afghan Project. They made contributions for the CD ‘We Sing for the Children’. One of our chapters held a raffle to raise funds for Afghanistan, which were donated to Dr. Ken Zontek, who served in Afghanistan and teaches at Yakima Valley Community College. Dr. Zontek had arranged for two Afghan girls to study at the college, and he presented a program at this chapter to tell about his experiences in that country. We have truly just begun to scratch the surface. I love doing this job”

[What We Have Gained](#)

Throughout the Society, it seems clear that members have gained as much as they have given to the Afghanistan Education Program. Dr. Rants commented on our “heartfelt attachment to helping teachers in Afghanistan,” and indeed this has been evident in so many comments from our members about how their horizons have been extended by this work. The whole-hearted response of so many of our members to Greg Mortenson when he spoke last January at the CTAUN conference was certainly intensified by their awareness of issues around education in Afghanistan through the Society’s work with UNICEF.

As we all become more globally aware, our lives and our teaching are enriched. We look forward with anticipation as a special committee appointed by Dr. Rants researches where we might go next. Recommendations can be emailed to Phyllis Hickey at phyllish@deltakappagamma.org.

CTAUN CONFERENCE AT THE UNITED NATIONS

Approximately 800 educators from around the world attended a conference for educators and other concerned citizens at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on Friday, January 30, titled “Protecting Human Rights—The United Nations—Our Schools.” Among those in attendance were 168 members of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, including current International President Dr. Carolyn Rants, past president Dr. Barbara Day, First Vice President Dr. Jensi Souders, Executive Coordinator Corlea Plowman, and International Business Administrator Phyllis Hickey. The chair of CTAUN and chair of the Conference, Anne-Marie Carlson, is a Society member from New York State.

The Conference theme was selected in honor of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was celebrated in December 2008. The morning session focused on some current challenges and opportunities related to human rights and how the UN works to protect those rights. The focus of the afternoon session was on the right to education and featured as keynote speaker Greg Mortenson, whose work building schools in the rural mountainous regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan is described in the book *Three Cups of Tea: One Man’s Mission to Promote Peace...One School at a Time*. He was accompanied by staff members from the Central Asia Institute (www.ikat.org) and Pennies for Peace (www.penniesforpeace.org). On display were copies of the young readers’ version of *Three Cups of Tea* and his picture book, *Listen to the Wind: Dr. Greg and Three Cups of Tea*, which had just been published. Mr. Mortenson showed a new DVD featuring his work currently available from the Central Asia Institute, and he delighted attendees by autographing books for all who waited in the long lines.

Among other highlights of the day was the presentation of Best Practices awards by Phyllis Hickey to three educators who developed programs inspired by what they had learned at previous CTAUN conferences. One of these was Society member Dr. Linda Dix from New Jersey, who has organized “twinning” programs between her school and schools in underdeveloped areas, including one in Jamaica. Dr. Dix has previously published an article in the *DKG Bulletin* (Spring 2005) on a similar program with a school in Haiti.

An overview of the conference was published in the March/April 2009 issue of the International newsletter, and a detailed summary of all conference presentations and activities is available on the CTAUN website (www.teachUN.org). Because of renovations at the United Nations building, CTAUN is now planning conferences at other locations. A conference is currently being planned for 15 January 2009 at Rutgers University in New Jersey.

CTAUN CONFERENCE AT THE CARTER CENTER
By Anne-Marie Carlson, Conference Chair

The Cyprus Room at the Jimmy Carter Presidential Center in Atlanta, Georgia, was the site for the CTAUN “Teaching Human Rights – Global to Local” conference for educators on Tuesday, 24 March 2009. Educators from the states of Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, Indiana, New Jersey and New York were in attendance along with representatives from national and local human rights organizations and the United Nations. Highlights of the day included the following:

- A College Presidents’ Dialogue on Human Rights during which Dr. Elizabeth Kiss, President, Agnes Scott College and Dr. Robert Franklin, President, Morehouse College focused on issues related to human rights and ethics;
- Keynote addresses by the Honorable Shirley Franklin, Mayor of Atlanta; Karin D. Ryan, Director, Human Rights Program, The Carter Center and Juan Carlos Brandt, Chief, Advocacy and Special Events, Department of Public Information, United Nations;
- Panels focusing on global to local responses and children’s rights with speakers from Amnesty International, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Georgia State University and local groups such as Hosea Feed the Hungry and Homeless, the Juvenile Justice Fund and the Fugees and
- Moot Court (Mock Trial) presentation by political science students at Georgia State.

This was CTAUN’s second conference at The Carter Center and was planned by its Atlanta Steering Committee with membership consisting of Delta Kappa Gamma, AAUW and UNA-USA members; educators from local colleges and universities and the Atlanta Public Schools; staff at the Center for Civil and Human Rights Partnership and The Carter Center, along with other local participation. Comments shared by conference registrants included the following: “Kudos to all on planning – excellent! Powerful information.” “Entire day was wonderful.” “Focus on human rights with emphasis on children’s rights was extremely timely.”

CTAUN PARTICIPATES IN NEW INITIATIVE: ACADEMIC IMPACT

Chair of CTAUN Anne-Marie Carlson announced recently that CTAUN had been invited to participate as a charter member of the UN Department of Public Information’s new venture, known as Academic Impact. By joining this program, universities and colleges will be expected to undertake one new activity each year that would further the purposes of the United Nations, with a particular emphasis on the Millennium Development Goals. Additional information, and ways in which Society members can participate, will be explored in our next Newsletter issue.

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 members of CTAUN. You can email us for further information.

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