



# NEWS BULLETIN



of the  
Delta Kappa Gamma Society International  
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## Former Iowan To Be International Guest

Corlea Plowman, the Executive Coordinator of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, will serve as the International Guest at the Upsilon State Convention June 11-13 at the Sullivan Brothers' Convention Center in Waterloo.

Having grown up in Iowa, Corlea said that she is excited to return to her home state.



As the Executive Director, Corlea oversees, coordinates, and facilitates all the operations at International Headquarters. She coordinates the staff development; provides support services to the Administrative Board, the Executive Board, and the Trustees; and serves as an ex-officio member as needed.

At our state convention, Corlea will be speaking at the business meeting, giving

a session on membership, and delivering an address at the evening's banquet to inform us of happenings at the International level. She will be an integral part of our convention.

## Golden Gift Award Announced

The Golden Gift Fund Committee is pleased to announce that a member from Iowa has been recognized for her outstanding achievement and leadership potential.

The newest member of Upsilon State to receive a Golden Gift Award is Mary Zirkelbach. Mary who is a member of Tau Chapter, Johnston, has been invited to participate in the 2010 Leadership/Management Seminar. –She is the current second vice president of Upsilon State.

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*The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, with 107,000 members in 17 countries, promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.*

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## Like Alice in Wonderland: It's All About Change

By Donna Niday, Upsilon State President

The word "delta" often evokes change since in geology a "delta" can be created when a river changes course or in astrodynamics when a change in velocity occurs. Similarly, our Delta Kappa Gamma International is definitely changing. Photos of the beginning years of the society show women wearing long dresses and elbow-length gloves. Oh, how times have changed! When I first joined Delta Kappa Gamma more than twenty years ago, I recall that all members wore dresses whereas at today's chapter meetings, pants outfits tend to prevail, and members often feel more comfortable and relaxed. Sometimes like Alice in Wonderland, we find our world, including Delta Kappa Gamma, to be one that is constantly changing:



*"I'm afraid I can't put it more clearly," Alice replied, very politely, "for I can't understand it myself, to begin with; and being so many different sizes in a day is very confusing."*

*"It isn't," said the Caterpillar.*

*"Well perhaps you haven't found it so yet," said Alice; "but when you have to turn into a chrysalis—you will someday, you know—and then after that into a butterfly . . ."*

Instead of thinking that life should remain constant, we can instead embrace change, recognizing that we are turning toward a new phase, or, in a sense, becoming a butterfly. One of the recent Delta Kappa Gamma changes has been that members may now use the DKG abbreviation, which even received the approval of the Alpha Chapter in Texas, the origin of Delta Kappa Gamma. Eleven new DKG emblems can be seen on the Delta Kappa Gamma website (click on "downloads" and then "graphics"). We also have made several changes in our state organization in recent years, moving from officer training in regions to a state convention training. We are altering the format yet again this year with training for chapter presidents, membership chairs, program chairs, secretaries, and treasurers at the state convention in June and training for the chapter committee chairs at the Fall Executive Board meeting in September. Hopefully, this will provide chapter officers more time to set up their committees in the summer and will allow an ongoing central location for chapter committee chair training at our DMACC location.

*"Take some more tea," the March Hare said to Alice, very earnestly.*

*"I've had nothing yet," Alice replied in an offended tone, "so I can't take more."*

*"You mean you can't take less," said the Hatter; "it's very easy to take more than nothing."*

A DKG change that has become a concern for chapters has been an increase in dues. While that has placed a hardship on some members, we also need to remember the many other benefits that International has given us. In recent years, more than 35 Iowa members have received emergency funds of \$500 per member from tornado or flood damage. I feel so thankful that we have a caring organization in which we show our concern for our sisters. In fact, I become much more excited about what others receive than what I am given, so I am thankful for our international projects in working with UNICEF and the large number of international and state scholarships our Iowa members have received.

*"Well, in our country," said Alice, still panting a little, "you'd generally get to somewhere else—if you ran very fast for a long time as we've been doing."*

*"A slow sort of country!" said the Queen. "Now, here, you see, it takes all the running you can do, to keep in the same place."*

Sometimes it feels like we are running in place to keep our chapter memberships stable. However, we are taking proactive steps. At the state level, we have instituted area coordinators to assist chapters directly with membership and leadership concerns. On the chapter level, some groups are making proactive changes to attract and retain members. On their annual reports, eleven chapter presidents said that they had changed their meeting times this year to assist younger teachers, busy educators, or retired members. Some chapters have moved to after-school or early-evening hours to accommodate those with children, and other chapters are now varying the day of the week to assist those with other commitments. Still others have planned an occasional Saturday brunch or a summer get-together. The actual decision is less important than the fact that the members get to make these choices, so at your local chapter meeting, you might consider having a discussion or survey about next year's chapter meeting times.

*"I wish you wouldn't squeeze so," said the Dormouse, who was sitting next to her. "I can hardly breathe."*

*"I can't help it," said Alice very meekly; "I'm growing."*

*"You've no right to grow here," said the Dormouse.*

*"Don't talk nonsense," said Alice more boldly; "you know you're growing, too."*

*"Yes, but I grow at a reasonable pace," said the Dormouse, "not in that ridiculous fashion."*

We are growing in many different ways. This summer those attending the international convention will examine changes in the constitution and bylaws, so you might discuss these proposed changes at your chapter meetings. Better yet, try attending the convention and making your voice heard. Be a part of the change.

*"I could tell you my adventures—beginning from this morning," said Alice a little timidly; "but it's no use going back to yesterday, because I was a different person then."*

At our 75<sup>th</sup> state anniversary in 2011, we will fondly reminisce about our state founders. However, I doubt if few of us wish to return permanently to 1936 with one-room schoolhouses, barriers to married teachers, and paltry salaries. Instead we can look to the future and make changes that are meaningful to us. I will be hosting a state strategic planning meeting on Saturday, June 27, for us to consider long-range planning. If you are interested in having a voice in future changes, please contact me and attend this futuristic meeting. While my state theme is connected to magic, it will take more than a few ounces of work and thought to make change happen. As Helen Keller once said, "To keep our faces toward change and behave like free spirits in the presence of fate is strength undefeatable." Let's be undefeatable; let's make good changes happen.

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## 2009-2011 Upsilon State Officers

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## Facts from the Chapters

After teaching 35 years in the Odebolt Arthur school system, Carolyn Menage, **Sigma**, is enjoying her first year of retirement.

**DKG**

In April members of **Tau Chapter** brought egg recipes to share in honor of Easter.

**DKG**

**Epsilon Chapter** donated books to Des Moines Health Center, a non-profit community health center. The center's mission is to reduce oral health disparities in central Iowa.

**DKG**

News from **Psi Chapter** in Marshalltown states that Jan Nevins is a new board member on the Creative Retirement Program Council.

**DKG**

Members of **Beta Beta Chapter** have donated new and gently used children's books for use the waiting rooms at clinics in four towns in Fremont and Mills Counties.

**DKG**

Sue Klossing, **Alpha Iota**, received her Masters in Administration from University of Northern Iowa in December. It was a two-year program in which she is now certified PreK-12 Administration/Special Education.



## Iowa Teacher of the Year to Speak at Brunch

Sarah Brown Wessling, the 2010 Iowa Teacher of the Year, will be the Sunday brunch speaker at this year's state convention on Sunday, June 13. Wessling was also one of four finalists for the National Teacher of the Year. Her brunch talk will

center on "Being and Becoming a Courageous Teacher."

Wessling has taught at Johnston High School for ten years and serves as the chairperson of the English Department. She started her teaching career by teaching for one year at Cedar Falls High School. She is a National Board Certified Teacher and was recognized for the Iowa Governor's Scholastic "Favorite Teacher Award."

In addition to her teaching, Wessling is the president of the Iowa Council of Teachers of English and last summer initiated a workshop for middle school, high school, and college instructors to talk about cross-grade level connections in the teaching of writing. She has received the Future Leader in Education Award and the Promising Teacher Award from the Iowa Council of Teachers of English.

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## Waterloo, IA, and Spokane, WA

Although miles apart, these cities in the Northwest Region do have something in common this summer. Both will be the site of a Delta Kappa Gamma Convention. Waterloo, Iowa, will host the Upsilon State Convention in June and Spokane, Washington, will host the International Convention in July.

If you've never attended a state convention, here's your chance. The 2010 **Upsilon State Convention** will be June 11-13 in Waterloo. If you can't go for the weekend, consider going for the day on Saturday. It's a great way to learn more about our Society, meet some outstanding women educators, and make new friends. Be a part of the magic. Registration forms and additional information are on the next four pages.

The International Convention will be in Spokane July 20-24. It's a chance to meet Delta Kappa Gamma sisters from all over the world as well as support our own Dr. Carolyn Rants, who will be completing her biennium as international president. Our current and past state presidents are offering to share their convention hotel room (free) with two first-timers. In addition, Mary Zirkelbach and Jenny Rants (Tau Chapter) will be making a presentation entitled "Social Networking with DKG" at International in July.