



**Alpha Psi Mainspring**  
**of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International**  
**Honor Society for Women Educators**

*LX, Number 1 SUMMER/PRE-WORKSHOP 2008 Old Town, Maine*

**MABEL J. DESMOND**

**2008 ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT**

Mabel J Desmond is a force to be reckoned with. She is petite in stature, but don't let that deceive you. In her 41+ years in education, she has worked with the little ones on up to teaching education classes at the University of Maine Presque Isle. Mabel also served in the House of Representatives for eight years, championing the causes of education at the state level. During these experiences, she made friends with many state legislative leaders, including Governor John Baldacci. He recently appointed her to the State of Maine Board of Education. She attends regular meetings in Augusta, driving herself down from Mapleton.



In Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, she has distinguished herself by serving in nearly every capacity at the chapter level, and as Professional Affairs Chair, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, 1st Vice President, and President at the state level. She also served as State Parliamentarian for one biennium. She has been a regular attendee at state and international conventions and workshops.

For those of us who have had the privilege of working with Mabel, she is an example of what a key woman educator represents. Congratulations to Mabel on receiving Alpha Psi State's most prestigious award, the Alpha Psi Achievement Award for 2008.

## Renewal



Renewal - make new again, to revive! As I am writing this President's message, I am waiting for a doctor's call to reschedule my Baha surgery. This year has been a series of profound experiences: sudden hearing loss, my mother's death, my oldest son's wedding, removal of my gall bladder and discovering that there is a way to renew my hearing. There have been times of despair, times of hope and times of joy. It has been a concentrated year of living life on life's terms. Now I await the surgery to restore

a part of me that I thought was lost forever. My hearing will be revived and made new again!

As we start this year in our chapters, you may go through some of the same emotions that I am experiencing. None of us knows the outcomes, but we have the tools to make it a spectacular year. Hopefully the programs that you have planned will have an abundance of hope and joy. There is a special quality to our sisterhood that brings out the best in us. Plan to share your gifts and talents with each other this year. Consider adding a few new faces to your chapter. I suggest that you look at the idea of renewal as you evaluate your programs. Use the resource "Passion for Learning: The Essence of Growth, 2006-2010 Program Manual" to provide the rich resource of ideas for an outstanding year.

Well, here's to joy, hope and renewal! Here's to hearing you with both ears in the fall! I am looking forward to seeing you in October and hearing about your successes.

Blessings and Peace to you all.

Susan Stinchfield-Plaisted

Alpha Psi State President

## Roberta Frances Rogers

April 3, 1916 – August 6, 2005

Last year, Alpha Psi received a large bequest from the estate of Roberta Rogers. It would be fitting to tell a bit about her life for those who don't remember her. Others of us who knew her well will enjoy reviewing some of her many accomplishments.



Roberta was born in Portland, Maine, on April 3, 1916, the second of two daughters born to Georgia and Albion Rogers. She attended Waynflete School and graduated from Portland High School with honors. During her high school years, she worked for a photographer, as a private secretary to Mr. Harold Payson & Co., and as secretary to several lawyers in a law firm. In her youth, she summered at Merrucoonegan Farm in Harpswell, the home of the Skolfields who were her maternal grandparents. Roberta graduated from Westbrook Junior College and attended the Universities of Virginia, Vermont, and Maine. She received her B.S/Ed degree in 1964.

Roberta taught one year at Northeastern Business College in Portland at the beginning of her career, at a salary of \$750; with her first paycheck she took her entire family out to dinner. Miss Rogers, as she was known by many, taught at Falmouth High School in the Business Education Department for 50 years, retiring in 1986. She was chairman of the department for several years. She also taught evening classes in Adult Education in Portland, Yarmouth, and Falmouth and served on an accreditation committee in Cape Elizabeth. In the mid-forties, she was one of the co-organizers of the Maine Department of Classroom Teachers. In 1976, she was named Teacher of the Year for the State of Maine. At one time, she was also on a task force for education appointed by the governor. After retirement, Roberta volunteered at the Mid Coast Hospital cafeteria.

At Falmouth High School, Roberta was the advisor for the senior yearbook, The Crest, from 1938 to 1986. Her work resulted in many honors for the yearbook. In 1977, The Crest, under her guidance, was listed among yearbooks of highest achievement by the New England Scholastic Press Association, and in 1978, the FHS yearbook was dedicated to Roberta. The dedication read in part, "In her forty years of teaching at Falmouth, she has become a remarkable teacher, coach, advisor, and friend to almost every student..." In addition to advising the yearbook, she co-sponsored the William H. Soule Club of Future teachers of America for many years and coached the girls' swim team, receiving many "dunkings" because the team became

champs year after year through the 50s and 60s. Other activities included being coach of the girls' basketball team and putting on variety shows and operettas. She said, "You name it – I've done it!" She received no extra pay for these duties – just pure pleasure!

Roberta really valued her membership in Delta Kappa Gamma. She became a member of Beta Chapter of Cumberland County in 1951. She served Beta as President (1956-1958) and then went on to be President of Alpha Psi State (1967-1969). She also served on several International Committees – World Fellowship, Professional Affairs, and Insurance. In 1993, she received Alpha Psi State's Achievement Award in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the state organization. Whenever she was in charge of an activity – whether it was a clam supper or a harvest supper at school, a Beta chapter meeting, or even as the treasurer of the Delta Kappa Gamma Northeast Regional Conference at the Poland Spring House – one knew that it would be done with finesse. Roberta always added the little extras which made things "special." She would liven things up in any group she was in. She loved to encourage people to put a little "spunk" in the fun songs we would sing and to sing The Delta Kappa Gamma Song with "gusto." She dearly loved her Delta Kappa Gamma sisters and was loved and admired by them.



One of Roberta's favorite Delta Kappa Gamma songs was "Symbols of Delta Kappa Gamma." She had requested that it be used at her funeral. Ginny Stelk, a Beta member who plays in the Mid Coast Symphony Orchestra, played this beautifully on her cello, while the words were read. In place of a flower arrangement, a single red rose was laid on top of the casket. Delta Kappa Gamma was close to Roberta's heart, and she served faithfully in so many ways.

During her lifetime, Roberta was all the Society stands for, a true key woman educator. She performed her educational tasks with enthusiasm and dedication. Whatever she attempted, she carried through responsibly. She searched constantly to enrich the lives of those she taught and those with whom she worked. Intellectual and professional growth were her constant goals. Her many friends and those she has influenced in so many ways miss her greatly, but she will be remembered always and her memory will inspire us to continue her work. She has left a part of herself with those she loved, with her colleagues, and with all of us.

## LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT



*Georgene Coombs leads workshop for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Presidents*

The 2008 Leadership Development Seminar was held Saturday, April 12, 2008, at the First Methodist Church in Bangor. We began at 9:00 AM with registration and fellowship with a welcome and introduction by immediate Past State President Mabel J Desmond. This was followed by a Rites and Rituals presentation by Gail Smith, filling in for Katie Yando (thank you, Gail!). Once again, Lorraine Bowdoin, with the help of Melanie Ruark, gave an enthusiastic and helpful look through governing documents. By 11:15 the officer workshops were in full swing, led by Dottie Martin, Susan Stinchfield-Plaisted, Georgene Coombs, and Nancy Ruark and Sharon Romanow. Luncheon was served at 12:30, followed by presentations of certificates of appreciation and the closing ceremony. Our Leadership Development seminar was concluded by 2:00 PM.

Thank you to all chapters for making the effort to get your chapter offices filled early so the seminar could be conducted before Spring Convention. We had 55 members in attendance.

## Thank You Outgoing Presidents!!



First Row: Judith Randall-Lambda, Lillian Heyda-Eta, Sunny Mullen-Gamma, Pam Partridge-Xi

Second Row: Sarah Shields-Delta, Sue Pidhurney-Theta, Linda Hussey-Beta, Jean Roy-Mu



First Row: Jean Lawrence-Nu, Mary Hyland-Epsilon

Second Row: Jo Ann Nickerson-Zeta, Mary Whitten-Kappa

## Good Luck Incoming Presidents!!



First Row: Nancy Grant-Omicron, Patty Lewis-Alpha, Linda Prescott-Mu,  
Pam Partridge-Xi

Second Row: Elaine Hendrickson-Delta, Myrna Duplessie-Gamma, Jane  
Stackpole-Theta



First Row: Nora Thombs-Kappa, Linda Hussey-Beta

Second Row: Marilyn Crandlemire-Eta, Sharon Goguen-Epsilon, June  
Ashmore-Lambda

## Meditation on Mom's Lessons

As many of you know, my Mom, Nat Stinchfield, recently died. At the celebration of her life, we had many blessings. One that stood out to me was the lists shared by the two generations of what Mom, fondly called knuckles or Mimi, had taught us.

A couple of examples were:

- That Larry Bird was the greatest basketball player to ever play for the Celtics
- That one smile, hug or mere squeeze of the hand can be the most powerful "I love you"
- Once you catch a big fish, setting it free is not an option
- To love God, family and country
- Honesty, in all senses of the word, toward yourself and toward others is key to life
- During baseball season, it is crucial to have the Red Sox game on. The entire game. Regardless of whether or not you actually sit down to watch it. And yelling at the TV helps them to win.
- That unconditional love never goes ignored

I decided to borrow from this powerful idea and share what I have learned from Delta Kappa Gamma Society about leadership:

1. Being a leader requires more listening than talking.
2. There are always new ideas to learn, share and try.
3. That our leaders are approachable and ready to help-they are just a phone call, e-mail or letter away.
4. That our resources are truly relevant and accessible.
5. That Delta Kappa Gamma is truly a professional society and sisterhood.
6. No one ever gets more out of an organization than they are willing to put into it.
7. Lead by example.
8. We need to be open to new approaches and ideas in order to grow as a society.
9. That if you have a question, concern, or criticism- speak up at meetings and share them; we cannot read minds.

To end my litany of things that I have learned, I will return to my mom's sage advice: work hard, play hard, pray hard and then relax. Dessert before dinner is okay (in moderation) and walks after dinner should be mandatory.

Here are a few other things I have learned about and through Delta Kappa Gamma:

1. The mysterious group that Martha Marden and Mary Proulx attended regularly was worth the 5-year wait to be invited to join.
2. An invitation to join was an honor and privilege!
3. That my mentors expect me to mentor others.
4. That saying no to chapter positions is not an option.
5. That you go to convention the first spring you join and you are on a committee at the first meeting you attend.
6. Attending state workshops and conventions is a lot of fun!
7. Attending international events is exciting and educational- a chance to meet people from all over the world!
8. That a chapter project, such as Sigma's READ TO ME, can capture national attention if you share it at a Northeast Regional meeting.
9. Alpha Psi State offers scholarships for continuing your education.
10. Members of Delta Kappa Gamma are some of the most amazing women that I have had the privilege of meeting.
11. If you are ill, your sisters step forward and support you.
12. That our sisterhood genuinely cares about each of us.
13. That there is great potential for growing professionally.
14. That our society is making a difference in the world.



Finally, back to quotes from my Mom. "To have friends in this life, you must first be a friend." I thank her, and you, for proving the truth of that philosophy.

Susan Stinchfield-Plaisted,  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

First Row: Dottie Martin, Jackie Cuppy (Immediate Past President of Delta Kappa Gamma International), Mabel Desmond

Second Row: Georgene Coombs, Susan Stinchfield-Plaisted, Nancy Ruark

## Founders' Fund 2008

The Founders' Fund was established in 1983 in honor of Alpha Psi State founders. The recipient must be a Delta Kappa Gamma International Alpha Psi State member for at least two years. The fund is used to support educational travel or study, pilot projects, society seminars, study groups, conferences or conventions, or other appropriate activities.

This year's recipient has been in education for twenty-one years and a member of both Delta Kappa Gamma International and Alpha Psi State for eleven years. She has a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and her Master's degree in Literacy.

Currently, this Alpha Psi member is pursuing a Gifted and Talented Endorsement for her teaching certificate. This Founders' Fund is provided to support professional development opportunities in Connecticut and Idaho. With our support, she attended Confratute, a comprehensive conference for Gifted and Talented educators held in July at the University of Connecticut, as well as the Camas Festival held in May in Idaho. The travel experience allowed our recipient to continue work on an inquiry project on the Nez Perce Native Americans who assisted the Lewis and Clark expedition.

For this twenty-fifth anniversary of the Founders' Fund, we are pleased to have been able to present Mary Hyland of Epsilon chapter with an amount of \$500.00.



*Mary Hyland of Epsilon and Mary Whitten, Scholarship Chair*

## Alpha Psi Scholarship 2008



The Alpha Psi Scholarship is awarded to a Delta Kappa Gamma International, Alpha Psi State member who is pursuing graduate study at an accredited institution. This year's recipient has been in education for 20 years and a member of Delta Kappa Gamma International for 13 years. We are pleased to have granted a scholarship of \$800 to Elizabeth Postlewaite of Omicron Chapter.

Beth has served in numerous positions at both the chapter and state level. In the chapter, she has served as President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, and on various committees. At the state level, she has served as Corresponding Secretary and Finance Committee Member and Chair.

Beth is pursuing a Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Leadership at the University of Maine Orono. Twenty-one of her thirty-six credits have been completed. Her present position is as Assistant Head of School at Foxcroft Academy in Dover-Foxcroft.

### International Convention Update

After much discussion, the raise in dues from \$20 to \$40 for active members and \$10 to \$20 for reserve members was passed by a margin for 3 to 2. I will share more about the rationale given at the Fall Workshop.

Susan Stinchfield-Plaisted  
President of Alpha Psi State, Maine

## **Alpha Chapter Recognizes Elizabeth Deshon Tibbetts**

Members of Alpha Chapter would like to take this opportunity to honor their sister, Elizabeth Deshon Tibbetts, who has been a member of Delta Kappa Gamma for 58 years!

Elizabeth attended Washington State Normal School in Machias, received her Bachelor of Science at Gorham Teachers' College in Gorham, and a Master in Education/Curriculum & Supervision from Boston University. In 1937, she began her teaching career in Hancock, Maine, with 37 children of all ages in a one-room schoolhouse. She received \$17 weekly, although she was quickly awarded \$18/week due to a larger class size! The schoolhouse is now being renovated on both the interior and exterior by a family owning property nearby and Elizabeth has been invited to attend the open house tours so that she might share her experiences with former pupils, friends, and other visitors. Elizabeth also taught in Ellsworth, Castine, and Lexington, Massachusetts. She returned to Maine as an Elementary Supervisor in the Orono, Old Town, Brewer, Eddington, and Holden areas. She later became the Elementary Supervisor in the City of Bangor for 27 years.

Elizabeth is most proud of the fact that the Third Grade Resources Book (part of the Social Studies program in Bangor) named "Downeast to Bangor" was dedicated to her. President Carter came to Bangor for a visit and was presented a copy of the book by Mayor Brontas, a copy which remains in President Carter's library.

Her interests include Delta Kappa Gamma, Brewer Garden Club, Friends of Acadia, Friends of Edith Patch, Friends of the Ellsworth and Bangor Libraries, Retired Teachers (Penobscot County), and the Maine State Herb Society. She is proud to have served on a committee to research a suitable herb for Maine, and is pleased that Governor Angus King and the Legislature passed a bill naming "wintergreen" the official Maine State Herb. She is also a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Machias.

Please join us in celebrating Elizabeth's many accomplishments and contributions!!

Alpha Chapter, Alpha Psi State

## **Alpha Psi Membership: Recruitment, Retention, Re-instatement, Recognition**

As predicted in the *Mainspring* one year ago, Alpha Psi State has distinguished itself this past biennium with its “Membership Explosion!” results reported at the International Convention in Chicago in July. Congratulations to Alpha Psi chapters, Delta, Epsilon, and Mu, who each initiated eight new members during the 2006-2008 biennium, thereby meeting the challenge issued by Delta Kappa Gamma leadership two years ago. Because Delta, Epsilon, and Mu chapters reached the goal established by International for recruitment of new members, they were recognized in a special “Membership Explosion!” booklet printed for and distributed at the International Convention.

In addition to Alpha Psi State performing well with recruitment of new members, senior members within chapters continue to be recognized statewide for their long-standing service in pursuit of our purposes and for their life-time contributions to Delta Kappa Gamma’s overall mission. At the annual Maine Education Association – Retired meeting held in May in Augusta, three Alpha Psi State Past Presidents were honored with County Leadership Awards. Madelyn Linscott (Mu), Brenna Thornton (Alpha), and Patricia Healey-Thompson (Epsilon) were presented gifts to applaud their long time volunteer service to community activities. Since the establishment of these awards by the MEA-R in 2004, Alpha Psi members have been recognized by a majority of the counties in the state. In fact, in the last five years, twenty different Delta Kappa Gamma members from ten different chapters have been the recipients of this state honor. Within our society of outstanding women educators and in Alpha Psi State, we are extremely proud of our commitment to not only attract excellent individuals to our ranks, but also retain these members and continue to recognize their valuable contributions to our organization. Alpha Psi State continues to take great pride in its commitment to the Four R’s of Membership: Recruitment, Retention, Re-instatement, and Recognition.

Georgene Coombs, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

### Officers 2008-2009



First Row: Susan Stinchfield-Plaisted-Nu, Dottie Martin-Delta, Mabel Desmond-Delta, Georgene Coombs-Epsilon  
 Second Row: Wanda Callahan-Nu, Sharon Romanow-Epsilon, Nancy Ruark-Gamma

### Past State Presidents



First Row: Madelyn Linscott-Mu, Mabel Desmond-Delta, Lorraine Bowdoin-Kappa, Sarah Chipman-Omicron  
 Second Row: Barbara Randall-Mu, Dawn MacPherson-Allen-Omicron, Rena Kearney-Delta, Brenna Thornton-Alpha, Patricia Healey-Thompson-Epsilon

### Committee Chairs



First Row: Mabel Desmond-Delta; Cynthia Edgecomb-Delta; Susan Pidhurney-Theta; Thalia Webb-Alpha; Lorraine Bowdoin-Kappa; Daina Allen-Omicron  
Second Row: Susan Stinchfield-Plaisted-Nu; Rheba Michaud-Omicron; Barbara Jordan-Eta; Rena Kearney-Delta; Mary Whitten-Kappa; Georgene Coombs-Epsilon

### Achievement Award Winners



First Row: Glenys Ryder- Mu, Mabel Desmond-Delta, Lorraine Bowdoin-Kappa, Sarah Chipman-Omicron  
Second Row: Dawn MacPherson-Allen-Omicron, Rena Kearney-Delta, Brenna Thornton-Alpha, Patricia Healey-Thompson-Epsilon, Ruth Wishart-Alpha

## Alpha Chapter Makes A Difference!



*Shirley Ellis, Alpha Chapter; Nancy McNally, Bangor School Children's Fund; Mary Wright, school nurse*

Alpha Chapter, located in the greater Bangor area, presented a check for \$1000 to the Bangor School Children's Fund in memory of Rosemary Riley. Rosemary was an active member of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International for 47 years, chairing numerous committees and serving as President for Alpha Chapter. She was a foreign language teacher in local schools who participated in many educational groups, and was a Fulbright Scholar who studied at the Sorbonne in Paris. For many years, Rosemary was the treasurer for the Bangor School Children's Fund.

The Bangor School Children's fund was started over 60 years ago, initially begun by the Bangor Junior League and the Lion's Club to pay for milk. When the need for milk was covered, the fund expanded to meet health related needs for Bangor school children such as eyeglasses, hearing aids, and other needs identified by the school nurse. The fund continues to be supported by area clubs and Parent-Teacher Organizations. The Bangor School Children's Fund would like to acknowledge Rosemary's many years of dedication to the fund. If you have any questions about the Bangor School children's Fund, you can call Nancy McNally at 992.4552 or email her at [nancy.mcnally@bangormaine.gov](mailto:nancy.mcnally@bangormaine.gov).

## Alpha Psi State Maine Remembers

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<b>Alpha Chapter</b>	M. Gail Larkin Rosemary Riley
<b>Beta Chapter</b>	Christine Blanchard Edna Dickey
<b>Epsilon Chapter</b>	Marsha Anderson Marguerite Rivers
<b>Zeta Chapter</b>	Joyce Gouin
<b>Eta Chapter</b>	Henrietta Hubbard Frances Maher
<b>Iota Chapter</b>	Florence Frost
<b>Nu Chapter</b>	Wilma Rhodes
<b>Xi Chapter</b>	Annie Owens



*Ceremony of Remembrance*

## Proud to Serve America: A Citizen-Soldier Perspective



Brigadier General Brent M. Boyles  
Assistant Adjutant General - Army,  
Maine National Guard

Our speaker at workshop will be Brigadier General Brent M. Boyles, a native of Mapleton, Maine. After graduating from Presque Isle High School in 1975, he received an appointment to the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York. He was commissioned a 2nd LT from USMA where he received a Bachelor of Science degree with a concentration in applied sciences and engineering in 1979. Brigadier General Boyles received a Master of Science degree in Defense Management from American Military University in 1998 and graduated from the U.S. Army War College in July 2002 receiving a second Masters degree in Strategic Studies.

His military career began at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland where he attended the Ordinance Officer Basic course followed by attendance at the Basic Airborne course in Fort Benning, Georgia. He saw combat action as a Maintenance Company Commander during the 1983 Grenada invasion. Since leaving active duty in May of 1984, Brigadier General Boyles has been a member of the Maine Army National Guard.

Brigadier General Boyles is employed by Maine Public Service Company in Presque Isle. He is currently the President and Chief Executive Officer of Maine and Maritimes Corporation and Maine Public Service.

Brigadier General Boyles is married to his wife Duska who is employed in the Presque Isle School System. They have three children and reside in Mapleton, Maine.

## Quilt Project



*Marilyn Hylan of Xi Chapter – Thanks for all the beautiful quilts!!*

### **Updates on the Social Security Offset and Other Issues Pertaining to the U.S. Forum**

Individuals must subscribe e-mail to Dr. Angela Bedenbaugh, Editor of the “U.S. Forum Connection”, a free e-newsletter. Each person must subscribe by sending her e-mail address to :

[Angela.Bedenbaugh@usm.edu](mailto:Angela.Bedenbaugh@usm.edu).

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

**October 24-25, 2008 – ALPHA PSI STATE FALL WORKSHOP**

**April, 2009 – ALPHA PSI STATE CONVENTION**

**July 20-25, 2009 – NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE**

Burlington, Vermont –

Sheraton Burlington Hotel & Conference Center

## Chapter News

### Alpha Chapter

**Mary Smith** received her Master's degree from University of Maine Orono.

**Pat St. Louis** retired and is teaching pre-algebra classes at Eastern Maine Community College (part-time).

**Beth Kingsbury** has continued to travel to several cities across the country, promoting and training educators about Reading First. During the past few months, she was in Nashville, Albuquerque, Phoenix, St. Louis, Bar Harbor and Portland.

**Fawn Condon** and **Debbie Bickford** have taken over as co-chairs for the MSAD #48 Recertification Committee and are working to make the process more user friendly by revamping the process and files.

**"T" Thalia Webb** is mentoring teachers through the recertification process in MSAD #48.

**Charlene Woodvine**, a retired elementary teacher, presented a program called "Little Red Riding Hood Goes to School" for the Penobscot County Retired Teachers and will present this program at the State Retired Teachers Annual Meeting in Augusta in May. It's a fun performance that is sure to delight many former teachers.

**Sheila Cochrane** has changed positions from a 4<sup>th</sup> grade classroom teacher at Newport Elementary School to the literacy specialist at the Corinna School. Sheila also presented a workshop on Effective Practices in Reading, Writing, and the Use of Multi-media at Seamless Transitions at the University of Maine.

**Elizabeth Warden** presented data collected using PLATO in Eastern Maine Community College's Academic Support Center at the University of Maine Augusta's Best Practice in Teaching Developmental Math at the University of Maine Orono.

In recognizing one of our members, **Frances Mitchell** shared some wonderful information about **Elizabeth Tibbetts**, a member of Delta Kappa Gamma for 58 years.

**Alpha Chapter** is pleased to have sponsored the Sign-N-Kids fund with help from the Mildred Thayer Fund. Sign-N-Kids is a summer day camp for deaf and hard-of-hearing children, their siblings, and children of deaf adults. **Alpha Chapter** also supplied all the "fixings" for a barbecue at Spruce Run transitional housing in June. The fourteen families who are

sheltered in transitional housing have all been victims of domestic abuse and are rebuilding their lives with the non-profit's support. This barbecue provided social support in a safe setting, and a good time was had by all who attended. Additionally, **Alpha Chapter** has been using special funds, bequeathed by Mildred Thayer, to supply gas cards, laundry detergent, etc. to these families on a monthly basis. The Spruce Run Domestic Violence Project was founded in 1973 and in addition to its transitional housing program, provides a 24 hour hot line, community education, children's services and emergency shelter for families in need.

Submitted by Cathy Lucas and Donna Megquier

## **Beta Chapter**

**Janet Buck** teaches at Gray-Gloucester Middle School. She just completed a post Masters course, Understanding by Design. It is a graduate course offered by the University of Southern Maine.

**Virginia Stelk**, a retired Portland teacher, has completed the course Teaching the Exceptional Student in the Regular Classroom, through the University of Phoenix. This was to renew her certificate again in order to do ACCESS testing for the ESL students in Portland.

**Claire Williams** completed a course, Maine History through American Education. This course is intended for certificate renewal. It is a very creative course with many field trips.

**Beta Chapter** adopted a service project. After Sukie Rice spoke at the February meeting about Friends of the Kakamega School in Kenya, the chapter decided to send funds to the project to help provide books, blankets, beans, and other basic needs.

Submitted by Virginia Stelk

## **Kappa Chapter**

**Mary Whitten** presented a formatting assessment meeting at the National Science Teachers Association in Boston on March 28, 2008.

**Mary Whitten** and another teacher at her school received a \$5000 grant from National Semiconductor to include engineering into the curriculum.

**Regina Herrick**, and another teacher, Alyson Saunders, who both teach Science at Dexter Regional High School, have been chosen to receive the Christa McAuliffe Award for 2008. This memorial award is given annually to an individual or team who has exhibited outstanding innovation in teaching and learning. It acknowledges work that has inspired pride among other educators, represents a unique and high quality

professional growth experience; and results in creative, long-lasting collegial learning.

Submitted by Lillian Fidler

### **Epsilon Chapter**

**Mary Alden** and **Brenda Holweger** attended the three-day conference on The Professional Learning Community presented by Rick and Becky Dufour.

**Georgene Coombs** led a workshop session on membership for chapter second vice-presidents at the State Leadership Development Seminar in Bangor. Incoming president **Sharon Goguen**, **Patrice Janssen** incoming first vice-president and **Kathy Sticht** incoming second vice-president also participated in the training.

**Beth Haynes** presented a workshop at the University of Maine to the Future Teachers Association on nature journaling. She showed examples of aligning these journals to Maine Learning Results, National Standards and the new mathematics Focal Points.

**Debbie Knutson** attended the workshop on the ABC's of RTI.

**Kathy Sticht** participated in the state reading fluency workshop

**Bonnie Maguire**, **Jackie Curtis**, and **Niki Hopkins** are working on a committee to revise the MSAD#34 English Language Arts K-5 Curriculum.

**Ruth Holmes** is retiring after more than 28 years of teaching and 16 years involved with Reading Recovery.

Congratulations to **Mary Hyland** on receiving the Founders Fund Award from Alpha Psi State.

**Dr. Julie DellaMattera** presented a session on Creativity in the Classroom at the University of Maine. She also served as keynote speaker at the annual meeting and reception for the Literacy Volunteers of Waldo County at the Belfast Free Library.

Submitted by Patricia Healey-Thompson

### **Iota Chapter**

At the June 3 meeting of Iota Chapter, **Eleanor Todd** was presented a 50 year DKG pin and **Ellen L. Doubleday** a 40 year pin. Twenty-five year pins (for 25 or more years) were received by **Charlotte B. Proctor** and **Sarah-Jane Poli**.

At this same meeting Alpha Psi State President **Dr. Dottie Martin** acted as the presiding Installation Officer for the chapter's new officers for 2008-2010. **Barbara Noone** was initiated as a new member.

Diana **Abbott** received the Volunteer of the Year Award from the Child Abuse Prevention Council of York County. She was also an instructor for the Literature In The Garden program (3rd year) and a judge for the Literary Achievement Awards in Wells (10th year).

Submitted by Sue Rideout

## Mu Chapter

The Kennebec Retired Educators Association chose **Madelyn Linscott** to be the 2008 recipient of the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual County Leadership Award. **Patricia McCluskey**, Chair of the County Leadership Awards, read the following communiqué: "Madelyn Linscott, a former Teacher of the Year (1966), has been significantly active in Delta Kappa Gamma having served as president of the Mu Chapter and of the State Organization. She is a past president of the Winthrop Literary Club and directed a Maine Summer Head Start program in Auburn. Her volunteer activities include working many hours on the Appalachian Trail as an assistant section maintainer and visiting nursing homes to read to patients or to write letters for them. In addition to all of this, she is participating in Senior College at the University of Maine Augusta." Madelyn also reached the milestone of 50 years of membership in the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International in the year 2008.

Submitted by Madelyn Linscott

**ALPHA PSI MAINSPRING**  
Published by Alpha Psi State  
Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

**CHAPTER NEWS**  
**January 1, 2009**

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