

**The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Alpha Iota State - Michigan State Conference
May 1-3, 2009
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Grand Rapids, Michigan
Hand in Hand Advancing Education**

Friday Evening Session

8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Kids 4 Afghan Kids

Teaching students about diversity and the world around them can be a difficult task. Northville teacher, Khris Nedam, and her sixth grade students took a unique approach in learning about Afghanistan. Her students discovered that the country had suffered a long drought, economic disruption due to the Soviet Union invasion, the Taliban rule, and the recent war. Students learned that children in many rural parts of Afghanistan had not had a school or access to a doctor in over 20 years. After learning about the hardships of Afghan children, Mrs. Nedam's students decided to be proactive and Kids 4 Afghan Kids was born. Under the guidance of their teacher, the students raised money and witnessed, via videotapes, internet and cell phones, the construction of a six-room school, a medical clinic, an orphanage, a bakery/kitchen, a guest house and community well for the residents of Wonkhai Valley, a mountainous area 3 hours southwest of Kabul. Come and be inspired by this unique and ongoing Social Studies project. An hour - long presentation of this session will be repeated on Saturday. **2 CEUs Available**

Saturday Morning and Afternoon Sessions

Kids 4 Afghan Kids

During the Friday evening alternate session, members learned about a unique ongoing Social Studies project presented by Northville Teacher, Khris Nedam. Khris returns with an hour-long encore presentation. Teaching students about diversity and the world around them can be a difficult task. Khris and her sixth grade students took a unique approach in learning about Afghanistan. The country has suffered through drought, economic disruption, Taliban rule, war, poor or non-existent medical care and schools. After learning about the hardships of Afghan children, Mrs. Nedam's students decided to be proactive and Kids 4 Afghan Kids was born. Under the guidance of their teacher, the students raised money and witnessed, via videotapes, internet and cell phones, the construction of a six-room school, a medical clinic, an orphanage, a bakery/kitchen, a guest house and community well for the residents of Wonkhai Valley, a mountainous area 3 hours southwest of Kabul. Come and be inspired by this unique and ongoing Social Studies project. **CEU Available *for those who did not attend the session on Friday**

Forever Friends

How does one go about writing a book and getting it published? Author Christina McGrinson, Epsilon, will speak about the writing and publishing process, as well as the healing power of writing her book about the murder of her nearly five-year old son on the 25th anniversary of the tragedy. The book is called "Forever Friends." The book follows her son Christopher and his friend, Brad, through their final play date, the funeral, and Brad's resolve to carry Christopher in his heart forever. The book is in English and Spanish.

Leader Dogs for the Blind - Harley, Davidson, Indiana, Moosh, Oso, Radar and ...

Leader Dogs for the Blind is an organization that promotes teaching students and the community about fostering an understanding and acceptance of people who are vision impaired. The organization also provides dog guides to people who are blind or vision impaired to enhance their mobility, independence, and quality of life. Participants will be able to take information from this session to educate their students how to interact and communicate with blind or vision impaired people who use a guide dog. Lynn Kosto, Beta Phi, will share her experiences that she has had raising seven leader dogs. Session participants will be able to interact with her dog. **CEU Available**

CLASSical Outreach

CLASSical Outreach is a program that has been developed to enhance the Science, Language Arts, and Music Curriculum. The program touches almost 5000 children each year in the Plymouth-Canton and Wayne-Westland Community Schools. Students have in-class demonstrations with quartets of Plymouth Symphony Orchestra musicians. Nan Washburn, musical conductor and director, will introduce participants to a newly produced CD of children's music by the Plymouth Symphony. One of the numbers on it is a narrated piece that was commissioned specifically for the CLASSical Outreach program. Three other selections are narrated stories that could be used by teachers, as well as just for the enjoyment of the children. Come learn about Plymouth Symphony Orchestra's CLASSical Music Outreach's program. **CEU Available**

Leading with Character by Seeing the Possibilities Around You

Nancy Berkompas, Alpha Tau, will begin this session with a video photographed by Dewitt Jones. Dewitt is a nationally acclaimed photographer for National Geographic magazine. He has now developed some phenomenal leadership materials that can be used in classrooms. In this session, participants will discuss the possibilities that we are exposed to in our daily lives, but do not always take the time or have the mindset to see. Participants will leave this session with renewed energy to recognize abundance, tolerate and appreciate change, help you see your own edge, and help you to be the best for the world. **CEU Available**

Autobiographical Genres - Writing Memoirs

A memoir is a piece of autobiographical writing, usually shorter in nature than a comprehensive autobiography. The memoir, especially as it is being used in publishing today, often tries to capture certain highlights or meaningful moments in one's past. Mary Tracey and Rita Traynor, Beta Omicron, will instruct participants about the characteristics of the memoir form, the different styles and ways of writing a memoir and how to get started. **CEU Available**

Change Tomorrow With Service Learning

Service Learning is an innovative teaching method that helps students practice academic learning a meaningful way- a way that connects them to the world around them. It improves academic performance, reinforces learning, and motivates students to become more invested in their school, their community and their world. Olga Albert will introduce participants to *The Box*, a module that provides everything needed to train and support educators in service learning. Materials and activities are adaptable for all age levels, community needs, or academic curricula. The materials can be used by a group of students, a classroom, or an entire school.

CEU Available

Healthy Body and Healthy Mind – Water Exercise for All

According to the Michigan Department of Education, movement is critical to all aspects of growth and development. We have learned that all forms of exercise provide unique learning opportunities to acquire skills and attitudes that will enhance our lives. Water exercise can prove to be a blessing. There is less impact on the joints and more resistance to make you work harder. A simple exercise like walking underwater for 30 minutes can burn more than 300 calories and will help in developing stronger legs and hip muscles and will also do wonders for your cardio-respiratory fitness level. ARC Certified Lifeguard, retired teacher, and current water exercise instructor at the YMCA will lead this whole brain learning session. *You don't have to be able to swim to reap the benefits of water exercise.

Card Making

Have you ever looked at a handmade card and thought to yourself, "So beautiful! I wish I know how to make my own greeting cards." Well, now you can! Join Grace Morgan, Gamma Alpha, and she will share her love of card making with participants. You will leave this session with cards you have made for various occasions. Imagine people receiving your homemade greetings with your name on the back! The joy that your handmade greeting cards will give to the recipients are just feelings that cannot be purchased. Grace will provide paper, embellishments, and other card making supplies to make the cards.

Congratulations! You Survived Your First Year

You have just completed the first year of your biennium. Now you really have questions! Chapter Presidents, Program Chairs, and members interested in revitalizing and stimulating your chapter meetings are encouraged to attend. This session will allow participants to discuss concerns, frustrations, and accomplishments. There will be an "Idea Swap" to help your chapter come up with exciting, innovative, and informative chapter meetings. Learn how to have chapter meetings that will help your members earn SB-CEU credit. Come to this session with questions and some of your successful programs and Service Project ideas and share with other chapters and get out of your rut! Mary Sass, Beta Phi; Dr. Dorothea French, Beta, and J-Jay Pechta, Gamma; will lead this session.

Beaded Cake Servers

What is the difference between art and craft? The Gamma Gamma presenters know that a craft produces something useful, whereas art produces something that is purely decorative. In this session you will learn to wrap beautiful beads around a dessert server that is ideal for parties or a special gifts. There will be assorted colors available. You must pre-register for the session. The cost will be \$15 and is **limited to the first 25 members who pre-registered.**

United Nations Day in Michigan

The world has become increasingly interconnected and interdependent as globalization draws people together in many different ways. It is clear that the United States is part of a world in which the majority of people live without food, clean water, health services, and educational opportunities. Now more than ever, children need to understand the wider world around them, appreciate the richness of its diversity, and find a common purpose in working for peace and justice to preserve it. Educators face the challenge of instilling in our children a concern for global problems and arming them with the knowledge necessary to promote social change. No one country or generation can solve global

problems alone. Participants will learn ways to join with the United Nations and incorporate the U.N.'s resources and expertise into school curricula, from Gwen Graham, Gamma Beta. **CEU Available**

Fixing Education II

One of the MDE's content standards is that learners are able to understand, interpret, and apply key social studies concepts in a variety of academic and real-life situations. Strategies, ideas, and outcomes from this instructional session can be translated into your secondary school government, civics, or debate curriculum. Dr. Dorothea French, Beta, and Alpena Conference participants identified what is really needed to "fix education." Many topics were addressed and references in the education research literature supported key points. With information from Fixing Education I, Dr. French will facilitate participants' discussion of specific areas such as technology, class size, preschool for everyone, testing, standards, restoring prestige to teaching profession, etc. and develop a gold paper topic on the theme of what is really needed to fix education. **CEU Available**

Shaking the Salt Habit - Managing an Almost Salt Free Diet

Health Education is for everyone. All of us need some salt to survive, but too much can lead to poor health. A high salt intake not only increases blood pressure but also raises the risk of heart attacks and strokes. Taking salt out of the kitchen and off the dining room table is the first step. But these measures alone won't make much of a dent in your sodium intake. Margaret Meehan, Beta Rho, will instruct us on how to fight high blood pressure by reducing the amount of salt in our diet plus giving participants information on the salt content of foods.

Books- Hot Topics for You, Your Club, and/ or Your County

Using language to understand, develop and communicate ideas and information, as well as interact with others, is just one goal of a book discussion group. This session will share Hillsdale County's "Big Read" program and will present participants with current fiction and non-fiction authors for book club discussions. After attending this session, you will be able to promote reading and discussion groups in your class, chapter, or county with confidence. You will pick up tips on book selection, the role of the discussion leader, and strategies for reading a book. **CEU Available**

My Shirt Came From Where?

It's a small world after all! Globalization is about connections between human communities spread out all over the world. Our ancestry, the food we eat, the clothes we wear, the objects of our daily use, and technology contained in them connects us to the global community. Participants will receive ready to use lesson plans and handouts. **CEU Available**

Golden Gift and Seminar For Purposeful Living

Learn about opportunities offered by The Society. Come to the session and learn about the Golden Gift Leadership/Management Seminar, what happens there, and why you should apply for this outstanding opportunity. Ask questions of Olive Horning, Gamma Beta, Michigan's 2008 Golden Gift Leadership/Management recipient.

Prior to each International Convention, a special seminar is held in an area in close proximity to the convention city. Educational topics, as well as personal life issues, are featured at each seminar and are presented by well-known local speakers. Short tours of historical areas give participants a flavor of the seminar site. Kathy Muench, Alpha Omega, will share her memories and encourage your participation in 2010 Seminar in Purposeful Living.

Successful Chapter Practices: What the Surveys Say

Do you need your chapter to become more successful at recruiting, retaining, and involving new members? Want to find out what's working? Learn about and discuss the results of the Society-wide Successful Chapter Practices Survey and take home many ideas to implement in order to make your chapter members crackle with enthusiasm.

Little House in the Elementary Classroom

Learn more about the Little House Books from Barbara Hawkins, Beta Tau. Barbara, a Little House national presenter at reading conferences, will have participants travel to the various home sites of Laura Ingalls Wilder via a slide presentation. A handout, slides, samples of children's work, and posters give you the opportunity to see twenty-nine learning centers - all related to the Little House Books and easily transferred into your curriculum. About 100 books for all ages will be displayed along with several items mentioned by Laura in her writings.

CEU Available

Solving the Reading Puzzle

Sandy Wuwert, Beta Rho, will present a multisensory, balanced literacy program based on songs, chants, rhyme, hand signals, and body movement. The program is firmly based on 'best practices' for teaching reading skills and the newest brain-based learning research. This session was offered at the 2008 Instruction and Professional Development Conference in Dearborn. **CEU Available**

General Session Keynote Speaker

We all know that teaching students about diversity can be a daunting task. Melissa McDermid, Beta Eta, decided some firsthand knowledge would help. Melissa won the National Milken Educator Award and decided to use the money traveling to Tanzania, volunteering in a school, and helping the community of Arusha, Tanzania. Her **One Crayon Project** is an inspiring tale of her journey that she has shared with students and educators. **CEU Available**