

## DELTA KAPPA GAMMA AT THE UNITED NATIONS: A FACT SHEET

### Summer 2009

Beginnings. In August of 1993 it was proposed by Anne-Marie Carlson of New York that The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International apply for Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) status with the Department of Public Information at the United Nations (UN/DPI) to especially help advance the Society's Purpose #7: "To inform members of current economic, social, political, and educational issues so that they may participate effectively in a world society." This proposal was supported by the Professional Affairs Committee, in September 1993 was approved by the Program Committee, and an amendment to the International Standing Rules was submitted to the Constitution Committee. At the International Convention held in Nashville, Tennessee, in July 1994, the membership in attendance approved that this amendment be added to *International Standing Rules—Part 1. Affiliations*. In June of 1995, Delta Kappa Gamma was granted NGO status with UN/DPI. Anne-Marie was appointed as Delta Kappa Gamma's first primary representative. In the years that followed, Doris Salagi of New Jersey was primary representative from 1998-2000; Phyllis Hickey of Connecticut was appointed in 2000 and reappointed for two more bienniums. The current primary representative is Dr. Rita King of New York, also a member of the International Personal Growth and Services Committee.

In July of 2003, the Society was granted consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). This allowed us to attend its conferences and also to expand our member involvement with the UN so that we now have seven official representatives. All are entitled to attend policy briefings and other meetings held by DPI specifically for NGO representatives on a wide variety of subjects. In addition, Anne-Marie Carlson's participation in various DPI activities has led to her recently being elected as Vice-Chair of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, which represents over 1600 NGOs around the world associated with DPI. (To see the listing, go to [www.ngodpiexcom.org](http://www.ngodpiexcom.org) and click on Committee. It is exciting to see the Society's name brought to the attention of people all around the world!)

Delta Kappa Gamma Partnerships with UNICEF. Since achieving NGO status, the Society has worked in partnership with UNICEF to sponsor fund-raising drives for education in some of the world's most needy areas. In 1996 the Gambia Project, which assisted girls to remain in school by providing funds for their education, was launched. In November 1999, we joined in the Pro-Maya Project 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. Since then members have engaged in fund raising activities, contributing almost \$200,000 to this cause. We were recently advised that the U.S. Fund for UNICEF would be unable to accept funds restricted to the Afghan project after June 30, 2009 and other UNICEF programs were suggested. A committee has been formed at International to consider these alternatives. Members of this committee are: Cathy Daugherty, Morag Gundy, Sigrun Klara Hannesdottir, and Phyllis Hickey.

The Formation of CTAUN. In 1996, Anne-Marie Carlson was invited to join a small group of educators focusing on ways to teach about the United Nations, and the Committee on Teaching About the United Nations (CTAUN) was formed as a result of their early meetings. This group is made up of members of various NGOs with an interest in education, such as Delta Kappa Gamma, AAUW, Rotary International, SOS Kinderdorf International, and UNA/USA. CTAUN consists of an Executive Committee of ten members and a larger group of people who work on a volunteer basis to help support conferences and other CTAUN activities. In 1998

CTAUN cooperated with other groups to organize a conference at the UN, but Anne-Marie became convinced that CTAUN should organize its own conferences. The first of these was held in 1999. Anne-Marie was Co-Chair of CTAUN from 1998-2002, and has been Chair since 2003.

To date CTAUN has organized eleven conferences held at UN headquarters based on global issues of concern to the United Nations. Two CTAUN conferences have also been held at the Carter Center in Atlanta, Georgia. Additional information about CTAUN, summaries of the past several conferences, and links to teaching resources for educators may be found at the CTAUN website: [www.teachun.org](http://www.teachun.org).

Future CTAUN Conferences Scheduled. Due to renovations currently taking place at the United Nations headquarters, CTAUN will be unable to plan conferences there during 2010 and possibly longer. Conferences are currently scheduled in different venues. One of these will be at Rutgers University in New Jersey on January 15, 2010 with the theme “Developing Globally Literate Students: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills, Emerging Technologies, and the United Nations.” A third Atlanta conference is in the initial planning stages. The likely date is March 9, 2010, with location at the Candler School of Theology, Emory University.

Academic Impact Initiative. In Spring of 2009, CTAUN was invited by UN/DPI to be a charter member of a new venture known as Academic Impact, which will involve universities around the world in advancing the purposes of the United Nations, including specifically the Millennium Development Goals. Participants in this initiative are expected to undertake one new activity each year that will address at least some of the ten basic principles of Academic Impact. These principles, along with other background information and an enrollment form, may be found on the website [www.academicimpact.org](http://www.academicimpact.org). Members of Delta Kappa Gamma who would like to discuss further the possibilities for their institutions may contact Anne-Marie Carlson ([dfcamc@aol.com](mailto:dfcamc@aol.com)). Watch for further news about Academic Impact as this initiative develops.

The Delta Kappa Gamma UN Network. At the 2002 International Convention, the International Executive Board voted to establish a UN Liaison Network. This means that each state organization selects a UN Liaison to be kept up to date on Society involvement at the UN and to receive and disseminate important information, including the *DKG@UN* newsletter, to members through email to chapter presidents. A back file of *DKG@UN* newsletters is also available at the Society website (go to [www.deltakappagamma.net](http://www.deltakappagamma.net) and click on United Nations), along with other pertinent UN information. As we enter a new biennium for state officers, we urge that each incoming state president appoint a UN Liaison and forward her email address to Margaret Anzul, Newsletter Editor ([manzul@verizon.net](mailto:manzul@verizon.net)).

## [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 active with CTAUN. You can email us for further information.

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