

THE NEW OREGON TRAIL

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
For Key Women Educators



Official Publication of
Alpha Rho State Oregon

Volume 39 No. 3

“Inspired by the Seven Purposes”

Spring/Summer 2011

STATE CONVENTION 2011

“Celebrate the Vision ~ Advance the Future” was the theme of the 2011 state convention, and that is what we did! Despite clouds and rain, members began arriving Friday afternoon for tours of historic Astoria. Many walked through residential neighborhoods and savored the architecture while learning the social history of each area. Others boarded a bus which took them to explore the “oldest American settlement west of the Rockies.”

After 200 years of Astoria’s history and a leisurely dinner, the convention opened with three workshops, all of which focused on the present. While some members missed having the usual “Opening Ceremonies” with greetings from local officials and entertainment by various groups, the change in tradition was seen as a way to serve the working membership with PDUs and to promote our reputation as a professional organization. **Kaye Jones** and **Kathy Martell** presented up-to-date materials and tools for recruiting, retaining and serving the members of Alpha Rho state.

Tita Montero, the Business and Community Liaison for the Tongue Point

Job Corps Center, spoke on the federally funded vocational program which provides academic training and hope for disadvantaged youth. She enlightened the members with her stories of difficulty, hard work and triumph as the staff and the students participate in the programs and make the center one of the most successful in the nation.

Jill Lang facilitated “Moving Alpha Rho into the 21st Century” with a roundtable discussion on Delta Kappa Gamma-related topics. Two first year teachers, **Erin Ward** and **Alise Andersen**, responded to members’ questions about ways our society can best serve educators who are starting their careers. They freely shared their first-hand experiences with the current policies and requirements, leaving us hungry for more information and additional time to continue the discussion. Indeed, at the end, more than one member was heard to say, “This can’t be the end of the discussion! We *have* to continue this at the next meeting.”



Marie Cramer lights candles for our members who have passed away.

Saturday morning brought another change to the schedule as we held the “Ceremony of Remembrance” first. “Roses and candlelight framed our affections” as we said good-bye to the members who passed away

since last May.

After a break, it was time to start the General Session and begin the new business of Alpha Rho state. The president remarked: “We are here in Astoria to celebrate, advance and network the ex-



International Guest, Claudia Maria Estrada and incoming Vice President Kathy Martell

cellence we find in Delta Kappa Gamma. The purpose of the General Session is to advance our work. To allow time for that work, I will reserve my remarks for the Banquet.” This set the tone for the meeting and the work began. **Claudia Maria Estrada**, the Latin America Representative from Guatemala, gave the Report and Greetings from International. **Norma Barney** presented nominations for new officers and then the voting took place. **Sharon Hohstadt** reported on the work of the Ad Hoc Committee for Conventions, Conferences and Sites. The membership voted to continue the committee.

After the ratification of the New Constitution in July 2010, the Bylaws Committee proposed 34 changes to the Bylaws and 25 changes to the corresponding Standing Rules. **Pam Amato**, the Bylaws Committee Chair, deftly led the assembly through the voting on all these items. The General Session was adjourned in just two hours!

The focus of the Birthday luncheon was all about the members. **Linda St. Pierre**, 2010 Golden gift recipient, presided. **Judy Mattson** gave the DKG Moment about a wonderful local teacher who has inspired many students. The

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blessing was written and given by a first year teacher, **Alise Andersen**, whose mother is member **Sharon Andersen**. **Alyce Sandusky**, Scholarship Chair, presented a program of information on all of the financial opportunities Delta Kappa Gamma (and specifically Alpha Rho state) offers to members. She then announced the recipients for 2011.

Raenelle Zumbo presented eight chapters with Rosette Awards and seven chapters with The Order of the Rose. **Carolee Jones** presented the Alpha Rho State Longevity and Achievement Awards. 28 certificates for 25 years of membership in the Society were given, with a special 25-year certificate for **Janet Walsh** who should have received it in 2010! Two certificates for 50 years of membership were presented to **Gretchen Alley** and **Mollie Newton**.

Susan Herron of Beta Beta was awarded the Achievement Award for her work in her community. **Beth Pearl-Gent** was given the Achievement Award for her dedication to education and **Dr. Barbara (Bobbie) Middaugh** for her work in our Society. Finally, Carolee presented a special award to **Irma Wauchope** who celebrated her 100th birthday while a member of the Society.

In the afternoon, the workshops continued. Much care and thought had been given to the topics that were chosen because certificates for professional development were being offered to members and non-members alike. Various curriculum subjects and skills, effective teaching strategies, and raising test scores were the offerings. **Claudia Estrada** presented one on Guatemalan education and leadership. The hosting chapters had reached out to their local school districts and invited educators to attend so they could receive PDUs toward their continued certification. By the end of the convention, 72 certificates had been given!

By late afternoon, the rain and clouds were replaced with a lovely sunny sky. This was indeed a blessing as the in-

stallation of officers and the Rose Banquet were to be held in "The Loft," the top floor of a historic Astoria building which overlooks the Columbia River. As the no-host social hour progressed, **Lavonne Knapp** accompanied the **Alpha Rhosies** on her accordion and **Arlene Ydstie** on her keyboard as they sang a collection of fun songs. The last number, "Come to the Banquet," was rewritten with permission of the composer and publisher specifically for this gathering of fine women educators.

Then the installation of the state officers for the 2011-2013 biennium was held. **Norma Barney**, as Nominations Chair, conducted the time-honored ceremony. With members, family and guests as witnesses, **Alice Hartness-Reichle** accepted the responsibility for leadership in Alpha Rho state. **Kathy Martell** and **Raenelle Zumbo** followed her in accepting their responsibilities for the respective offices of state vice president and state secretary.

Catie Thurber-Brown cheerfully presided over the banquet while **Ellen Ellis** challenged us to find ways to help women educators stay in the profession. **Erin Hall Ward**, daughter of **Elaine Hall** and newest member of Alpha Rho state, blessed our meal and us with her thoughtful words. As members filed through the buffet line a keyboardist and a bassoonist played. Music continued to enchant us throughout the meal. After dinner **Maila Cadd** introduced Wilho Saari, an award-winning composer of over 1,000 pieces for the kantele (the Finnish national harp.) It was announced that he had written a piece that very day for Alpha Rho state in honor of our excellence in education. As he played, we watched the sun set over the Columbia. Next, the Silent Auction Winners were announced. **President Bridget** then handed the gavel to president-elect **Alice Hartness-Reichle** and the membership returned under moonlight to the reception for the Interna-

tional Representative and the newly installed officers.

Sunday morning found the State Executive Board dispatching business briskly to make plenty of time for the two fabulous speakers. Larry Lockett, principal of Astoria High School, spoke about receiving a Google Technology Grant, one of 500 in the nation. Oregon Senator Betsy Johnson spoke about education issues facing the current state legislature. Both speakers spoke with passion and clarity. The members especially valued the question and answer periods held by both speakers.

This convention was hosted by three of the smallest chapters in our state. Their sisters from across the state helped them. It was done beautifully, professionally and with a great deal of work. From the comments on the evaluation sheets the "small community atmosphere" created a "very sweet conference." Changes in the format, without losing tradition, allowed us to "Celebrate the Vision ~ and Advance the Future."

Bridget E. Honan



President Bridget Honan gives newly elected president Alice Hartness-Reichle her president's pin.



New state officers: Raenelle Zumbo, Secretary; Kathy Martell, Vice President; Alice Hartness-Reichle, President; and Bridget Honan, outgoing President.

“Let’s Have a Discussion...”

*“Don’t cry because it’s over.
Smile because it happened.”*

Dr. Seuss

Yes, the 2009-2011 biennium is almost over, but when I think of all that happened, I can’t help but smile. Members, both new and familiar to the state leadership, said, “yes” to opportunities and they accomplished projects for Oregon:

1. Alpha Rho state has stretched out in its use of technology: an online voucher system, a more user-friendly website, and the beginnings of GoToMeeting.com for state committee meetings.
2. Chapters small and large worked together to produce fine state conventions.
3. We held our first Legislators Appreciation Day on February 9, 2011.
4. Professional Development Units are now provided to members and guests who attend worthy workshops at the chapter and state level.
5. We celebrated new members, advanced our purposes and extended our network of excellence within and beyond our state.

Was everything good? No. Did we make mistakes? Yes. The better part of that answer is that we fixed our mistakes and learned from them. That learning is now being passed to future leaders.

I will never be able to thank you enough for asking me to be your leader. The experience was a wonderful challenge. I am keenly aware that if there was success on my part, it was because of your support. I never had to reach far to get counsel, help or excellence. Meeting and visiting with you at your chapter meetings made a difference in my life, and I look forward to watching as Alpha Rho state moves forward in excellence.

Sincerely,

Bridget E. Honan



Editor’s Note

I would like to extend a giant “Thank You!” to all those members who have supported me the last two years as your state editor. I enjoyed working on *The New Oregon Trail*. So many people have helped me by submitting wonderful articles and pictures, as well as providing mentorship and direction when needed. Others have even “stepped-up-to-the-plate” to assist in taking pictures at various DKG events. I would also like to thank all of you in advance for extending the same patience and support to your new editor. It is a great experience and has quite a learning curve. Serving in a leadership role in DKG is an awesome experience. Thank you so much - ALL OF YOU!

Bonnie Briggs

My Dear Delta Kappa Gamma Sisters!

Your kind expressions of sympathy, with the sudden passing of my husband, were deeply appreciated. Reading your lovely cards and sentiments provided rays of sunshine to my days during this tragic time in my life. Please know that I feel at peace knowing that my husband, Tom, is with his parents and being held in the palms of God’s hands. My son Jayson and I are truly blessed to have such supportive friends and family.

*Hugs to all of you,
Kathy Martell*

President’s Schedule

April 18	Alpha Delta
April 29	Beta Epsilon
June 11	Nu
June 21	Transition Meeting

**LEGISLATIVE
APPRECIATION DAY**
(Creating a “buzz” for DKG
by **Dr. Yvonne Fasold** and
Bridget E. Honan)

How can we spread the word about our wonderful organization?

On Wednesday, February 9, 2011, our Oregon Legislators learned about Delta Kappa Gamma. Five members of the Alpha Rho State Leadership team went to the Capitol Building in Salem to deliver Valentine Greetings to our Governor and every Senator and Representative.

Each Valentine goodie bag contained a DKG bookmark with DKG information and contact information, a note thanking each legislator for his or her support for public education, and some chocolate kisses. We visited the office of Representative **Betty Komp**, a DKG member, to honor her with a red rose corsage.

The members then attended the 11:00 a.m. session of the House of Representatives where Rep. Komp introduced us. After lunch at Willamette University we attended an Education Committee meeting.

When the opportunity presented itself, we reminded legislators that in 1990 Delta Kappa Gamma members in Oregon conducted research that led to kindergartens in the public school system. They were also told that we would be willing to do research on other education-related topics or provide feedback for the legislators from teachers around the state.

At the 2011 state convention Oregon Senator Betsy Johnson told the members that if they wanted to provide information to and help for the legislators, they would first have to make personal contact with their own legislators. “Make an appointment and introduce yourself. Tell them you are interested in Oregon education and mention specific

issues. When they are holding town hall meetings, go and participate. Let them know that you are there, not as a fly-by-night constituent with a beef of some sort, but in for the long haul with the goal of getting education back on track. Let them know that you have contacts in the community and therefore can offer basic feedback from people in the system. At the 2010 International Convention Christopher Rants told us to reach out and start a relationship with legislators. He also said to come with prepared ideas rather than just “What are we going to do about this?” Legislators need help too. Let’s continue to think of ways that we can support and help our legislators as they face the difficult work during the session ahead.

Let’s make this an annual event!

Kathy Martell, Program Chair
Dr. Yvonne Fasold, Research Chair
Bonita Fillmore, Legislative Chair
Bridget E. Honan, Alpha Rho State President
Alice Hartness-Reichle, Alpha Rho State Vice-President



Kathie Hill and Kathy Martell: convention photographers



Dr. Jo Pomeroy-Crockett gave a workshop titled “So You Want to Write a Children’s Book?”



Marie Mueller accepts the Omega Chapter Newsletter Award from Bridget Honan.



Marie Cramer (l) and Jill Snyder (r), along with Shalese Stroup, shared the latest Oregon Math Standards in a workshop.

State Convention 2011 . . .

All A Twitter With Convention 2011 “TWEETS”

Liked new schedule
Finnish music outstanding
Crowded but friendly
Have speakers on a platform
Great food
Cheryle Barker helping with tech.
amazing
Very inspiring and informative
Please turn off cell phones
Friendly hotel staff
Loved small community atmosphere
Super to recognize chapters, but too
long
Thanks for the PDUs
Enjoyed the Block Party
Perfect weekend
Have boutique and silent auction
closer
Liked the Scandinavian flag presenters
Ran out of chowder at lunch
A very “sweet” conference
Wilho Saari truly inspiring
Amazing selection of topics and
speakers
Tasty and healthy food
Start Sun. at 8:00 AM for those who
travel
Missed big opening on Friday night
Sen. Betsy Johnson – honesty and
transparency as a politician
Impressed with 1st year educators’
comments
Well organized
Workshops for retired and working
teachers
Great job District 4
Maybe a tour on Sat. for working
teachers
Principal Larry Lockett is a KEY
educator
Beautiful scenery
Liked Native American welcome and
story
Some titles of workshops not reflective
of content
Remembrance on Sunday, please

Chrome Program information
outstanding
Hotel sound system not good
Loved The Loft for banquet
Hospitality Room friendly but so
crowded
GREAT letting non-members
participate
Have everything in one building
Wonderful banquet music
Enjoyed informative tour, but wet and
muddy
Sen. Betsy Johnson was so impressive
Hard to see flag girls’ dresses
Loved variety of pertinent workshops
More space for silent auction
Lots of history info on the tour
Trolley schedule would have been nice
Missed DKG song
Liked learning about Scandinavian
heritage
Accommodations great
Take group award photos
Mac Burns – excellent workshop
Would like plated dinners
Great to meet Claudia
Wanted more time to brainstorm
at Fri. workshop with young
teachers
Good looking posters and banners
12 workshops – lots to learn
Liked Celebrating Lives first at
convention
Ran smoothly and on time
My principal allowed me to miss ½ of
a planning day because PDUs
were available!!!!!!

Alice Hartness-Reichle



Chapter Newsletter Awards

The Communications and Technology Committee noticed the awesome improvement in 2010-2011 chapter newsletters! The published guidelines were used in the evaluation process along with looking for consistency and content (i.e. headlines the same, use of color and pictures effectively, dates, spelling, grammar, mastheads, DKG Mission Statement, editors’ names.)

There were seven Honorable Mention Awards: Gamma, Zeta, Kappa, Alpha Pi, Alpha Phi, Omega and Omicron.

The Outstanding Chapter Newsletter Awards were presented to nine chapters that effectively used color, readability, creativity, eye-catching mastheads, and those that followed the main guidelines. Congratulations are extended to: Alpha, Eta, Lambda, Phi, Alpha Delta, Alpha Nu, Alpha Sigma, Beta Beta, Chi and Alpha Epsilon.

Chapters may continue to send after-Convention newsletters to Raenelle Zumbo, outgoing Communications/Technology Chair, until June 15, 2011. They will be placed in the file for 2011-2012. The new chair will make contact with the chapters and resend guidelines with her name and address after The Leadership Transition Training in June.

Raenell Zumbo
Communications/Tech. Chair.



Chris Luehring (r) accepts her chapter's Outstanding Newsletter award from Bridget Honan

2011 Convention Panel Considers 21st Century Power Base

The momentum is building! Active teachers, both veterans and newly hired, are feeling the support of the society. Backed by a strengthening cadre



Jill Lang

of retired teachers, ideas are flying, and volunteers are stepping up to offer real help to real teachers in real classrooms.

Convention suggestions included something for every group, as pulling together is the plan for success. Check out the following sample of propositions and decide what you can endorse as an individual member and then together with your chapter:

1. Cover the dues for newly initiated members!
2. Establish DKG booths at college centers and job fairs!
3. Make regular "Quick Talks" at school staff meetings!
4. Approach a retirement center for residents willing to "adopt" a chapter!
5. TTT (Teach Technology Tips) to support active teachers and draw in new members!

This short list is just the beginning. Watch for the growing collection of ideas to be presented on the DKG website and make a plan for what you and your chapter can do to help. Together we can make a difference for all of our teachers!

Jill Lang
Alpha Phi

Scholarships Awarded

This year the Unique Boutique was able to fund 18 scholarships of \$300 each for first time convention attendees.

Four Commemorative Scholarships of \$900 each went to **Barbara Rainey, Eloise Gibson, Marguerite Fitzpatrick** and **Mary Klages**. **Jane Dow** received a \$600 Commemorative Scholarship. This year we also awarded one Dagmar Jeppeson Grant of \$600 to Ashley Miller to help her continue her teacher education.

Alyce Sandusky
Scholarship Chair

Service Awards

Three Delta Kappa Gamma women were honored with service awards at the 2011 Alpha Rho state convention in Astoria. Their chapters nominated these women as deserving of this honor.

The Service to Education award recipient was **Beth Pearl-Gent** who has served as library consultant for Lake County School District and created libraries for new schools in the Bend/Redmond area. She developed a group book-read program and teacher kits for kindergarten and early childhood education classrooms.

Susan Herron was given the Service to Community award for her tireless work with local persons who need shelter, food and clothing. Her work includes outreach to girls of Pakistan and Afghanistan through collections of "pennies for peace." Adding to her already full schedule, Susan volunteers at Meridian Park Hospital and is involved with Medical Teams International.

Dr. Barbara Middaugh was named Service to Society recipient, honoring her for the many years of dedicated service given to Delta Kappa Gamma International, Alpha Rho State and Epsilon Chapter. Bobbie has given freely of

her time and energy to insure the continuation of a strong Alpha Rho state. When asked to serve, Bobbie is always at the ready.

Carolee Jones
Awards Chairman

Scholarship Fund Donations

As a result of the Silent Auction and the donations made during the Birthday Luncheon, all of the scholarship funds have been enhanced. Following are the totals gained by each fund.

Emma Henkle	\$20
Presidents and Founders Fund	\$55
Edith Green Fund	\$140
Jeppeson Fund	\$1000
Commemorative Funds	\$545
Total	\$1750



Susan Herron was thrilled by recognition for her Service to Community.



Dr. Bobbie Middaugh celebrates her Service to Society Award.

Together we C.A.N.

NETWORK

the excellence of D. K. G.

Teachers Supporting Teachers

What's going on?

Classroom teachers are feeling the pain; Retired teachers want them to stay sane!

So...

Alpha Phi Chapter has an exciting project this year. This is what it's all about: supporting our members who work in classrooms:

- Five times during the school year a care package is delivered to each of our teaching teachers' classrooms.
- This lovely treat is complete with a name tag, also indicating the DKG connection – there for all to see!

What else is happening?

- Anytime during the school year, a teacher can submit requests for assistance as needed.
- Members “pick” what they can provide and follow up with that teacher.
 - Information gained from an internet search on selected topics for social studies
 - Collection of art lessons around a particular theme
 - Cardboard cut-outs to use for science

The list goes on and on...

What can you do?

Be creative! Make your chapter a TEACHING TEACHER'S DELIGHT!

Jill Lang, Alpha Phi Chapter

Pictures Needed for Regional Info-Fairs

Judy Merz and Heidi Chadwick are on the Subcommittee for Support for Early-career Educators. For the displays at the Info Fair at the Regional Conferences, they need pictures of chapters/members supporting early-career educators.

Any pictures you may have from an event that shows a way you have supported these educators that we may post on our display, complete with a caption describing the picture(s,) would be greatly appreciated. Please save the pictures as a .jpeg at a large size or as .tiffs and e-mail them to me at: chadwickhj@earthlink.net.

Best to all,
Heidi, Judy and Bridget

Omega Chapter makes the DKG NEWS



At one Omega Chapter meeting Peggy Cowen shared her research on what it costs the nation to train and retrain teachers due to

the high dropout rate. It runs in the billions of dollars. She shared ideas our members could use to help new teachers. This was written and submitted for the *DKG NEWS*. A copy was posted on the International website.

You can now find this article on our Alpha Rho State website under Resources at <http://deltakappagamma.org/OR> “Early Career Support Ideas.”

Do you want to help early career educators?

Are you concerned about bullying?

Do you support literacy efforts?



Make A Miracle Campaign – \$500

Make A Miracle II – Additional \$500

Donations are 100% tax deductible for U.S. citizens

“Contributing to the Foundation took on new meaning for me when I was able to obtain some funding for a state project that would honor new teachers and give them deserved recognition as they began their careers in education. I have come to appreciate the diversity of funded projects when I see in each year’s award listing that funds will be used literally all over the world.”

Jane D. Williams, Iota state organization, Virginia, executive secretary and past state president

The Delta Kappa Gamma Educational Foundation

www.educatoredge.org

www.dkg.org

Together we C.A.N.

CELEBRATE

the excellence of D. K. G.

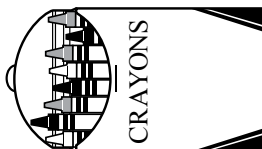
Crayons For Kindergartens

Members of Alpha Chapter recently donated 60 boxes of crayons to three kindergarten classes at Mills Elementary School. The children were in dire need of long, new crayons instead of broken bits of colors. Chapter President **Jean Calvo** presented the crayons to the three teachers. Calvo said, "A need was brought to the attention of chapter members at our April meeting. Since part of our mission is to help teachers, we wanted to provide encouragement and classroom help in a small but significant way. These children needed classroom crayons to help finish out their kindergarten school year with a positive, excellent, educational experience. It was fun to help unwrap the crayons and put them in the children's table tote, and to see the smiles on the teachers' faces."

Raenelle Zumbo
Newsletter Editor



Teachers receiving crayons: Elizabeth Campbell, Charlotte De Los Reyes-Gardner, (President Jean Calvo,) and Christine Sreniawski



Alpha Nu News

For the third year, Alpha Nu Chapter will award a \$250 grant to a woman educator in the Beaverton School District who is a first to third-year teacher. It can be used to fund projects or buy supplies that enhance the educational experience of her students. To further support educators, several Alpha Nu members are volunteering their time and talent to assist teachers in the classroom.

A coordinator from the Beaverton Family Resource Center who helps the homeless shared with us the rewards and challenges of providing shelter, transportation, and other needs for many homeless students in Beaverton Schools. Alpha Nu members donated about \$400 in gift cards to help meet those needs.

Nadine Eaton

Beta Beta Assists Families in Need

Thanks to the generosity of Beta Beta Chapter, twenty-four Washington County families had a cheerier Christmas 2010. Beta Beta member, **Debbie Sullivan**, is a speech and language pathologist with the Northwest ESD. She works at the Tualatin Early Childhood Center that serves over 200 families with special needs children from birth to age five in Tigard, Tualatin and Sherwood. Five years ago Debbie asked our chapter members if they would like to assist those families that needed a little extra help at Christmas. The response was very positive with many members signing up to buy gifts and provide food. Debbie volunteers much of her own

time to find out what each person needs or wants. It has now become a Beta Beta tradition...signing up to purchase specific gifts at the November meeting and bringing them to Debbie at the December meeting.

We have also come up with a creative way to gather food for these families. Canned Food Bingo has become a source of entertainment and pride of accomplishment at each December meeting. This year Canned Food Bingo brought in nearly 400 pounds of food for these struggling families.

Debbie and her team from the Early Childhood Center organized all of the gifts and food for delivery to each of the 24 families in need. This year, distribution day was December 20 and Debbie said it was the highlight of the holiday season for everyone who volunteered to help that day.

Beta Beta Chapter is proud to call Debbie Sullivan a member. She is a whirlwind of energy and organization. All of the families she serves are lucky to have her in their lives.

Sandy Bartnick

Omega Chapter November Activity: Book Bagging and Boxing

November brings Omega's yearly "Literacy Outreach Program." Thanks to diligent work by members prior to the meeting, books were already segregated into age-appropriate levels. Members dived into bagging and boxing them for shipment to foster children, Three Rivers Community Hospital Family House, Women's Crisis Center, laundromats,

and the like. **Patty Hayes** and **Lois De-courcey**, two of our senior members, stuffed "from DKG" envelopes, marked through names, and stamped "Obsolete" on school discards.

The process involves selecting an envelope marked with grade and gender, e.g., 6th/boy, then filling the bag with books and literacy items that are appropriate. This process produced 105 bags ready for distribution to foster children. We ran out of bags before we ran out of books or children.

Several boxes of books ranging from pre-school through adult were prepared for the other venues (Three Rivers Community Hospital Family House, Women's Crisis Center, Laundromats) where they were warmly welcomed.

The remaining books were boxed by reading level and returned to storage for next year. It was a great deal of fun and it produced a variety of literacy options for those who have little access. It helped all of us clean off our bookshelves for neater homes (and perhaps even some dusting!)

Marie Mueller, Omega Secretary

Omega Chapter Initiation

On September 16, two outstanding women educators, **Kimberly Watson** and **Megan Wurst**, were initiated into Omega Chapter. Omega Chapter, serving Josephine County, has 40 members representing a variety of educational positions and has recognized outstanding local women in education since September 24, 1945.

Sponsored by **Lorey Christensen**, **Megan Wurst** has a Master of Arts in Teaching from Southern Oregon University. Ms. Wurst currently teaches 5th through 8th grade mathematics at St. Anne's Catholic School.

Sponsored by **Lise VanBrunt**, **Kimberly Watson** has a Master of Education degree from Saginaw Valley State Uni-

versity in Saginaw, Michigan. Her current position is that of multiple-handicapped teacher at Madrona Elementary, part of the Three Rivers School District.

Both women bring excellent skills and enthusiasm to students in the Rogue Valley and Omega Chapter is delighted to welcome them into our membership.

Marie Mueller, Omega Secretary



From left to right: Lorey Christensen, Megan Wurst, Kimberly Watson, Lise VanBrunt. Newest members, Megan and Kim, are joined by their sponsors, Lorey and Lise, at the recent initiation ceremony at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Grants Pass.

Photo by Kathie Hill, Chapter Photographer



Elaine Hall, (l) and Erin Hall Ward create interesting designs at the convention Art Workshop in Astoria.



Kappa Holds Auction

Kappa Chapter in the Albany, Corvallis area had a wonderful turn out and a great time at the Holiday Auction they hosted this year. On Saturday morning Dec. 11th, we raised over \$1300 dollars for future projects. Quite a variety of items were auctioned off including baskets full of wonderful items and weekends at the coast. Homemade bags and afghans were also among the auctioned items.

A catered brunch was part of the morning plans. We were entertained by Sydney, Connor and **Julie Balderston** as they each played festive music adding to the over all success of the event.

Much thanks to our committee that worked so hard on this: **Julie Balderston**, **Becki Goslow**, **Helen Cuhna** and **Teresa Nielson**.

Elaine Hall

Contact Information Changes

Send Address and E-Mail Changes to:

Bridget E Honan, bridgetehonan@gmail.com

Jill Snyder, snyderjrn@comcast.net

Here are the latest changes in contact information for our members:

Roberta Hutton:

roberta.hutton313@gmail.com

Yvonne Fasold:

541-343-4223

Save This Date:

Nov. 5, 2011: PAC Brunch Multnomah Athletic Club

As always, the Silent Auction was a success and added to the scholarship funds.

Together we C.A.N.

ADVANCE

the excellence of D. K. G.

GAMMA NEWS

Nancy Golden: Superintendent of the Year.

Our chapter is proud to announce that Gamma member **Nancy Golden** is the new Oregon State Superintendent of the Year. Having worked as Springfield Public Schools Superintendent since 2003, she well deserves this honor. Her teachers are happy about classroom visits that always result in a complimentary note being left behind. Her administrators feel great support from her when problems arise. When 20 million dollars was cut from a 90 million dollar budget, Nancy's vision, *Every Student a Graduate Prepared for a Bright and Successful Future*, and great collaboration with her teachers and the community, led to an agreement that avoided conflicts with the union and parent unrest. As a result, and in spite of this drastic cut in funds, reading and math scores continued to rise. Gamma teachers and administrators who have worked under Nancy agree that her energy, commitment and caring for her students, their families, her staff and our community are unparalleled. In a typically humble manner, when asked what this award meant to her, she said, "I love leading and serving on behalf of our 11,000 students. This award is a great confirmation of what a group of caring individuals can do together."

Iota Member in Tanzania

Iota Chapter member, **Bertha Haas**, is working in Tanzania through the Maryknoll missionaries' organization. She has been there for five years. At first she

didn't want to work with anything related to teaching, but after her first year in Tanzania she noticed that there was no school for children with disabilities. She looked into the reasons and found the only reason is money. Tanzania has a hard time educating any student even though the government has an education plan for the country. Very few public schools exist; most of the wealthy students attend private schools or schools abroad.

The school was created by the local people in Nyasaka and named "Huruma." This school is for children with disabilities only. Their mission is to provide a free and appropriate education along with life and occupational skills. The school currently has 57 students in various grades. There is a high teacher to student ratio to create an atmosphere of support and productivity for the children and their families.

DKG International has supported the school for three years and Iota Chapter of Oregon has supported it for two years. Bertha's school runs on very little money because the school pays the teachers prevailing wages. Each family is to create a product to sell at the local market that supports the school's operating expenses. You can learn more about Maryknoll at <http://laymissioners.maryknoll.org> and if you would like to support Bertha's school you can make tax-deductible contributions to Maryknoll Lay Missioners. Note on the "memo line of the check" Bertha Haas – support.

Omega Member Gains State Position

As usual, I sent out a request for updates and changes for the chapter directory. **Julie York**, a member of Omega since 2006, replied that she no longer worked for the Medford School District. I asked if she had retired, and received a surprising response: "No, I have not yet retired; in fact, I took a job as Director of Interagency Education Services at the Oregon Department of Education."

Julie continued: "It surely has been an incredibly steep learning curve, but I am very excited about the opportunity to impact educational policy in Oregon.

I am assigned to the department of Student Learning and Partnerships, and I oversee all of the educational programs provided to Oregon youth in correctional facilities, long-term care and treatment facilities and hospitals.

The exciting moments thus far have come from visiting various correctional facilities and speaking first-hand with youth who have struggled to make positive decisions in their lives, but who have learned to value education and are working toward a high school diploma. Another moving moment was listening to five young men, all fathers, speaking about a new curriculum to assist them with parenting skills.

The greatest barrier is funding for the next biennium. This new position is a great challenge, and I am excited to be a part of such valuable work."

Omega is proud of our member and we look forward to hearing about the im-

pact she will make during her tenure as director. If you'd like more information on the position, contact Julie at julie.york@state.or.us.

Marie Mueller
Omega Secretary, Grants Pass, Oregon

Israel: Holy Land of Promise and Hope

During my two-week travel experience in Israel in November 2010, I observed and experienced faith, hope, and peace among the people living in a country that has long been called The Holy Land or The Promised Land. I traveled with a group of 12 people from Oregon City Christian Church.

We spent the first four days and nights in Tiberias, a city on the southwestern edge of the Sea of Galilee. We toured Meggido, site of 20 ancient fortified cities built on top of one another (oldest dating back to 4000 B.C.)

In Jerusalem we spent considerable time touring the old walled city. We saw the Jewish, Arab, Christian, and Armenian quarters as well as the famed Temple Mount. This is a sacred place to both the Jewish and Islamic people, and even though it is presently under control of the Muslims, some Jewish people believe that the next Temple will be built on this site. Another significant site in the old walled city is the Western Wall (called the Wailing Wall by some,) which was built by Herod in the year 19 B.C. A very humbling experience for me was walking the Via Dolorosa, the long stone walkway said to be the route where Jesus walked to his crucifixion.

Outside the old walled city of Jerusalem, places of interest were the Garden of Gethsemane, the Mt. of Olives, and the Church of the Nativity.

As we left the lush and greener region of Northern Israel, we traveled south to the Dead Sea 1300 feet below sea level! Overlooking the Dead Sea were the in-

triguing limestone caves where scrolls containing many ancient documents, including some Old Testament texts that were discovered in clay jars in the late 1940s.

The ultimate highlight of my trip was being able to stand on the white sandy shores of the Mediterranean Sea at Caesarea, breathing in the beauty of the shimmering blue water.

During my time in Israel I saw many young children with their parents and in many ways they reminded me of children in America. However it was also common to see young Jewish children sitting on stone steps reciting verses aloud (from the Torah) and also praying at the Wailing Wall.

Because of the very generous Personal Enrichment State Scholarship that I received, I had the wonderful opportunity to sample the culture and observe the lives of diverse ethnic groups in Israel. I also observed that there are Jewish, Muslim and Christian people who live and share The Promised Land peacefully in spite of the differences. Yes, injustice, discord, and even violent incidents still occur in Israel; however, many people hope for peace. Now I understand why so many people in Israel ask visitors to "Pray for peace for Jerusalem." Thank you so much for my scholarship!

Margie Fitzpatrick
Alpha Phi Chapter



Margie Fitzpatrick in Caesarea by the Mediterranean Sea in Israel.

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THE NEW OREGON TRAIL

Spring/Summer Issue 2011

Publication of
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
For Key Women Educators
Alpha Rho State Oregon

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
GLADSTONE, OR 97027
PERMIT NO. 55

Published 3 times a year

Next 3 Deadline Dates

September 20, 2011

January 30, 2012

May 15, 2012

All Address Changes: Send to
International Headquarters
PO Box 1589, Austin, TX 78767-1589
or e-mail to lindad@dkg.org

Mission Statement

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society
International promotes professional and
personal growth of women educators and
excellence in education.

Dates and Deadlines

June 21, 2011 9:00 am - 2:30 pm
Transition Meeting for
Leadership Team and
Committee Chairs, Sunnyside
School

July 27-30, 2011
NW Regional, Edmonton,
Alberta, Canada

September 24, 2011: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Fall Conference/Executive
Board Meeting: Alyce
Yoshikai Elementary School,
Salem, OR

April 20-22, 2012
Alpha Rho State Convention
Hilton Hotel and Convention
Center, Eugene, Oregon

July 24-28, 2012
2012 International Convention
New York, New York
Sheraton New York Hotel and
Towers

White Roses for 2010-2011

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Mary A McCusker, Alpha Pi
Susan Leigh Hoesly, Alpha Phi
Chapter
Charlotte J. Spear, Phi

Helen Fry, State Honorary Member

!!!WANTED!!! - Unique Boutique Coordinator

The Unique Boutique has been an incredible source of funding, assisting members as first time attendees, with the cost of attending state, regional, and international conventions. In order to continue this program, we are in need of a new coordinator. Janet Walsh is stepping down from this position, but has kindly volunteered to assist with training and help with shopping for items. Please contact either Alice Hartness-Reichle (dareichle@comcast.net) or Janet Walsh (mom4ever@cheerful.com) if you are interested or have questions concerning this job. **Alpha Rho State NEEDS YOU!!!**