



Zeta Chapter Newsletter

March-May, 2007

Zeta Chapter
Alpha State, Texas

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Vol. 25, No. 4
Area VIII, Chapter 6
Waco, Texas

From the President:

Dear Zeta Members,

As a chapter we have suffered much grief over the past few weeks. Many of us have had deaths, accidents, and other devastating news in our personal lives. As a Delta Kappa Gamma family we mourn the loss of our sister, Marsha Jaska. Marsha was such an inspiration to many of us. Her wit, her wisdom and her leadership will be missed by all who knew her. But more than that, Marsha was a great friend. She was truly interested in and concerned about the people around her. She was an active member of Zeta Chapter and encouraged others to be also. Marsha lit a torch and it is up to us to carry that torch forward. We can do that by taking an active role in our chapter, by serving as strong committee chairmen and members, by accepting officer positions and actively carrying out the duties of those positions, and most important of all, we can continue to recommend new members for membership in our chapter. There is no other way to insure the future of Zeta Chapter. There is no other way to continue the legacy begun by our founders. We will be initiating a new member at the April meeting. This member was recommended by Marsha along with Laura Speegle.

Another way that we can be more active in our membership is to attend state and regional meetings. The Alpha State Convention will be in Amarillo this June. The Southwest Regional meeting is in July and will be in Oklahoma City. These meetings are packed with workshops for various officers and committees, professional development sessions, breakfasts, luncheons, banquets, door prizes, site seeing and much more. It is very exciting to attend these meetings and to meet key women

educators from all over our state and from other states that are within our region. In the summer of 2008 we will have the opportunity to attend the international meeting in Chicago, Illinois. At this meeting you will meet sister Delta Kappa Gamma members from around the world.

Although our membership spreads around the globe, we each play a vital role in the success of our Society. Each of us is unique and we each have our own combination of strengths and weaknesses. Each member has a talent or a skill that she can contribute to our chapter. That is why it takes each and every one of our members to make us complete. We compliment each other and together we can be strong. We can continue to fulfill the purposes of our Society.

Sincerely,
Linda Ewing

Two Ladies Invited For Membership In Zeta Chapter

Zeta Chapter has invited two women educators into membership. They are April McAdams and Marti Turner.

April teaches at Penelope where her husband is the football coach. In addition to teaching fifth graders, she keeps statistics at the football games and coaches academic UIL events. She is the daughter of Zeta member Mary Dean.

Marti also teaches 5th grade and is the department chair at North Waco Elementary. She also teaches French at Baylor University during the summers.

These women educators will be an asset to our chapter.

Chapter Purchases Clock For State Headquarters

Our new Alpha State headquarters is an accomplishment that we as Delta Kappa Gamma members here in Texas can be proud of. Not only is it a beautiful facility, but it is also a wonderful way to honor and to memorialize key women educators. Zeta Chapter voted unanimously to purchase a clock for headquarters. The clock will be in honor of Dorothy Stallings, who has been a member of Zeta Chapter since 1951. She served as the president of Zeta Chapter during the 1968-70 biennium and as president of Alpha State for the 1987-89 biennium. We are very honored to have Dorothy as a member of our chapter and this clock is a way for us to express the great respect that we have for her and her contributions to Delta Kappa Gamma.

Raising the Roof!

As you know, we now have a beautiful new Alpha State Headquarters building in Dallas. The money used to build the facility was borrowed from our state scholarship fund. We are now in the process of paying that money back. Each chapter in the state has been challenged to donate \$100 to help pay back this loan. For a \$5.00 donation, you can receive a beautiful pin shaped like the state of Texas with a roof over it. It also has a rose and the date of the opening of the new headquarters building. If you would like to donate \$5.00 to receive a pin that commemorates this great event, please see **Dorothy Stallings** at the April meeting.

Position of 2nd Vice President Filled

Barbara Rountree has graciously accepted the position of 2nd Vice President for Zeta Chapter. She stated that she would be honored to fulfill the position that was held by Marsha Jaska at the time of her death. Barbara has been a member of Zeta Chapter since 1978 and has held many offices and chaired many committees, including serving as president for the 1992-94 biennium. She regularly attends chapter meetings. She also attends Alpha State

conventions, SW Regional meetings, and International Conferences. Barbara has been nominated to serve on the Alpha State Finance committee for the upcoming biennium. Barbara is a dedicated member who always says, "Yes" when asked to serve. We are truly blessed to have Barbara in Zeta Chapter.

Zeta Chapter's First Meeting

The following was taken from the collection of Zeta Chapter minutes from 1929.

On December 7, 1929 at 12:30 o'clock in the Florentine Room of the Hilton Hotel, the Zeta Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society held its first meeting with Miss Annie Webb Blanton, the National President presiding.

Miss Blanton called the roll, after which those present were asked to rise and give their names and positions.

During the luncheon, Miss Blanton explained the purpose of the organization. After the luncheon the initiation took place.

The nominating committee appointed by Miss Blanton presented the names for election and the following officers were elected: Annie M. Forsgard - President, Rowena Barrett - 1st Vice President, Mrs. C.B. Barrett - 2nd Vice President, Kathleen Gould - Corresponding Secretary, Mary Strange - Recording Secretary, Mrs. W.E. Cantrell - Treasurer, Mrs. Marian Butler - Parliamentarian, Nell Kennon - Keeper of Records.

After expressing to Miss Blanton our appreciation of her work and interest in the Waco teachers, the meeting adjourned.

Annie M. Forsgard, Pres.

Mary Strange, Sec'y.

On February 15, 1930 the Zeta Executive Board met at the Morris Tea Room. Among the decisions made at that meeting was that hereafter the meetings would be at 12 o'clock at the Morris Tea Room and that the luncheon should be \$1.00 a plate. Seventy seven years

later and our tri-chapter luncheon will be \$15.00 a plate!

Welcome Back!

We are thrilled to have two returning members. **Jan Hungate** and **Betsy Curry** were, by unanimous vote, reinstated at the February meeting. Jan and Betsy, welcome back. You are an asset to our chapter.

Betsy Curry (Mrs. Bill)
510 Wooded Crest, Waco 76712
772-5486, B-day 1/9, Initiated 1979

Sherry Jan Hungate (Mrs. Bobby)
3300 Orchard Lane, Waco 76705
799-5751, B-day 10/18, Initiated 1988

Bingo For World Fellowship

Emphasis was placed on World Fellowships at the February meeting. Members enjoyed playing *Zeta Bingo* at 25¢ per game. Not only did the members learn about the Society and Zeta Chapter, but also raised \$45.35 to contribute to the World Fellowships Program. Treasurer **Lorraine Doshier** reported that an additional contribution was sent in by a member after the meeting.

The Society established a World Fellowship Fund to provide opportunities for women educators to study in colleges and universities in the United States and Canada. During the past 41 years the Fund has provided grants to 520 women from 91 countries.

The program began at the 1946 convention in San Francisco with approval of a project to aid women in war-torn countries. Four German women educators, with financial assistance from Delta Kappa Gamma members, spent eight weeks of study and visitation in Sweden in the spring of 1948.

The second step toward the present-day World Fellowships Program was the alliance in 1952 with UNESCO to provide special help for Korean women. During 1958-1960, the present program began to take shape, and an agreement was made with the Institute of International Education (IIE) to provide dossiers from which a Society committee could select recipients for study in the United States.

Work with world fellowships was originally the province of the Personal Growth and Services Committee. In 1972 the World Fellowships Committee became a standing committee, with state and chapter committees added to the Constitution in 1974. **Jo Ann Tucker** is Zeta's World Fellowship Committee Chairman.

In 1978 the Institute of International Education recognized the World Fellowships Program with an award which is displayed at Delta Kappa Gamma

International Headquarters in Austin, Texas. (Pamphlet from Headquarters)

Contributions to the World Fellowships Education Fund may be made using Form 43 through Treasurer Lorraine Doshier or sent directly to International Headquarters:

World Fellowship Fund

P.O. Box 1589
Austin, TX 78767-1589
Fax 512.478.3961
888.762.4685

www.deltakappagamma.org

Interesting Program Presented at February Meeting

Zeta Chapter met at the Hoover Branch Library on Saturday, February 17, 2007. The program preceded the business meeting. **Laura Speegle** introduced Dr. Helen Benedict. Dr. Benedict is a psychology professor at Baylor University who specializes in children's counseling and play therapy. Dr. Benedict captivated the audience as she described the causes and symptoms of attachment disorder. She shared many interesting aspects of her research and was asked to come back at a later date to share the conclusions of her research. Helen's e-mail address is: helen_benedict@baylor.edu

Helen Benedict speaking at the February meeting.



Make Your Reservations for the Tri-Chapter Luncheon !

The **Tri-Chapter Luncheon** will be held on the **Brazos Belle** on Saturday, May 5th at 11:30 a.m. The cost of the luncheon is \$15.00 per person. Zeta members should send their money (or pay at the April meeting) to **Lorraine Doshier**, 5313 Lake Charles, Waco 76710. The money is due on or before April 21. Lorraine will have to submit the money to Karen Kemp, treasurer Eta Sigma, by April 26th.

CONGRATULATIONS!

We extend a heartfelt congratulations to Gail Herring. Gail was appointed to serve as the Alpha State Program Chairman for the upcoming biennium. Gail has been a member of Zeta Chapter since 1980. She served as Zeta's president from 1994 –1996. Gail has been very active on the local, state, and international levels. We are happy for you.

In Our Thoughts

Former Zeta member, **Lilie Oubre's** mother passed away in the Philippines. **Lilian Rathman** missed the February meeting due to illness. **Jewel Lockridge** missed the February meeting to recuperate from a trip to Atlanta the week before. Remember the **Zeta Members** who teach at North Waco Elementary as they try to get back to some normalcy after the loss of their friend and co-worker, Zeta member Marsha Jaska. Please keep **Laura Speegle** in our thoughts and prayers as she heals after losing her best friend. **Dee Dee Evans**, past president Epsilon Chi, fell in the HEB parking lot. She broke her glasses and suffered several bruises, but fortunately was not seriously injured. **Gretta Fisk's** mother-in-law underwent surgery to amputate a leg that was broken and, due to osteoporosis, would not heal. She is in her nineties and lives in the McGregor nursing home. Gretta reported that she is doing very well after her surgery.

Thank You

Lilian Rathman donated the money to purchase the beautiful roses for Marsha Jaska's funeral. Marsha did her student teaching under Lilian.

March, April, May Birthdays

3/16 Rachel Stanfield	5/1 Darla Bertino
4/13 Sue Margaret Hughes	5/6 Lorraine Doshier
4/21 Fay McClintock	5/22 Lacreata Carr
4/26 Jean Tolbert	5/24 Barbara Rountree

5/25 Laura Speegle UPCOMING MEETINGS!

**APRIL MEETING
HOOVER BRANCH LIBRARY
SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2007
10:30 A.M.**

**MAY MEETING
TRI-CHAPTER LUNCHEON
BRAZOS BELLE
SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2007
11:30 A.M.
COST \$15.00**

ZETA CHAPTER MEETINGS 2006-2007

Sept. 9, 2006—Area VIII Workshop
Temple 9th Grade Center, Temple, TX

Oct. 19, 2006—Barbara Rountree's classroom
Waco High School, 4:30 P.M.

*** * * Note time change from 10:00 to 10:30
for Hoover Library. Meeting room will be
open at 10:00.**

Nov. 18, 2006—Hoover Branch Library (across
from HEB, Wooded Acres) 10:00 A.M.

Dec. 16, 2006—Hamilton House, Austin Ave.
10:00 A.M. (meal will be served)

Jan. 27, 2007—Hoover Branch Library
2:30 P.M. (refreshments will be served)

Feb. 17, 2007—Hoover Branch Library
10:00 A.M. (refreshments will be served)

March 17, 2007—Greater Zion Church,
2626 S. 28th St., Waco, 10:00 A.M.
(meal will be served)

April 21, 2007—Hoover Branch Library
10:00 A.M. (refreshments will be served)

May, 2007—Tri-Chapter Meeting—(TBA)
(meal will be served)

Sept. 15, 2007—Hoover Branch Library
10:00 A.M. (refreshments will be served)

Oct. 20, 2007—Hoover Branch Library
10:00 A.M. (refreshments will be served)

Legislative Update

Senate Finance, House Appropriations Committee Considers TRS Budget

The Senate Finance Committee met and considered testimony on the initial Teacher Retirement System (TRS) budget proposal. Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE) testified before the committee and reiterated our priorities for this session, which include granting retirees a cost-of-living increase and increasing the state's contribution rate to TRS. ATPE also referenced a recent study that tied increased increases in retirees' pensions to economic development across the state. The committee thanked ATPE members for their reasonable approach to the challenges facing the state in meeting our goals.

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education also considered the TRS budget this week and approved a plan on Wednesday to provide increased funding for TRS. The plan would raise the state contribution rate to the pension system to 6.7 percent. If approved, it would be the first time in more than a decade that the state's contribution rate would be higher than the members' rate (6.4 percent). A 6.7 percent state contribution rate would generate a funding increase of about \$350 million, and would allow the system to become actuarially sound during the current biennium. Although the committee discussed increasing annuities as a means to provide a cost-of-living increase, it appears it is geared more towards providing retirees a one-time thirteenth check. ATPE will continue to work to convince the Legislature to grant a permanent cost-of-living increase that will provide retirees with security into the future. The Appropriations Committee as a whole will next consider the plan the subcommittee approved Wednesday night.

Senate Education Committee Considers Charter School Reform

The Senate Education Committee met Wednesday to consider Senate Bill (SB) 4 by Committee Chairwoman Florence Shapiro (R-

Plano). SB 4 would enact several reforms on the state's charter schools, including creating public charter schools, including creating public charter districts, revoking charters for schools that are rated unacceptable for more than two consecutive years and creating a facilities funding incentive program for high-performing schools. ATPE testified before the committee to share concerns that creating public charter districts could lead to expanding the number of charter schools and allow for the proliferation of poor-performing schools. ATPE is also concerned that the accountability standards set in the bill are too low.

The committee adopted several amendments to the bill and left it pending.

House Public Education Committee Considers Virtual Schools

The House Public Education Committee met Tuesday to consider House Bill (HB) 277, which calls for the creation of a state virtual school network. Under HB 277, highly rated public and charter schools would be allowed to offer courses online to students from around the state, including private school and home schooled students. ATPE testified before the committee to outline our concerns, and will continue to work with the committee and the author of the bill to ensure that students receive high quality instruction on any virtual school environment. HB 277 was left pending.

The committee also considered several other bills, including HB 721 which would require certification for educational diagnosticians, and HB 958 which would require registered sex offenders to notify administrators before entering onto school property.

More Legislation

ATPE also submitted testimony cards in support of HBs 752 and 753 and SB 218. HBs 752 and 753 allow parents to take time off of work to attend school activities or attend parent-teacher conferences and were heard in the House Jurisprudence Committee. SB 218 would create licensing standards for pre-school and after school programs and was considered in the Senate Health

and Human Services committee. (ATPE LAN Update)

**Mark the Following Dates
on Your Calendars:**

2007 Alpha State Convention, Amarillo, Texas
June 14-17, 2007

2007 Southwest Regional, Oklahoma City, OK
July 12-14, 2007

2008 Alpha State Convention, The Woodlands
June 19-21, 2008

2008 International Convention, Chicago, IL
July 22-26, 2008

SPOTLIGHT ON CHAPTER MEMBER

GAIL HERRING

Gail Herring was born July 16 in Houston, Texas. She is the middle child of five children. She graduated from South Houston Senior High School in 1962, from Baylor University in 1966 with a BA degree, and in 1977 with an MS degree and a Reading Specialist Certificate. She taught at LaVega Elementary School for 22 years and at McLennan Community College for 10 years. She retired in 2003.

Gail has been married to Tommy Herring for 41 years. Tommy is an attorney and their son, Todd, a graduate of the University of Texas, is a partner in Hillside Auto Sales in Waco. Todd married Adriana Ortega, a 2006 graduate of Baylor University, last July.

Gail was initiated into Zeta Chapter in 1980. She has served as chairman for several committees and was chapter president 1994-1996. She was honored in 2000 with Zeta's Chapter Achievement Award. Gail is currently serving as the Technology Committee Chairman and enjoys working and serving with Zeta chapter members. She is thankful for their support and encouragement.

Gail has been active on the state and international levels of Delta Kappa Gamma. She has attended many state and international conventions and regional conferences. She has also attended three Seminars for Purposeful Living. She has been a member on several Alpha State committees and has served as Chairman of Alpha State Yearbook Committee and Convention Chairman of the 2003 Alpha State Convention in Waco. Presently, she is serving as a member of the International Personal Growth and Services Committee.

As an active member of Delta Kappa Gamma Gail feels honored to have been selected as a participant in the Texas Leadership Seminar in 1995 and the Golden Gift Leadership Management Seminar in 1997. She is also a proud recipient of the Alpha State Achievement Award in 2004. She is deeply indebted to Delta Kappa Gamma for granting her so many opportunities to grow both personally and professionally.

Since retiring from teaching in 2003, Gail has stayed active in her church and community. She is currently serving as a board member for Baylor's Institute for Learning in Retirement and a Discussion Leader for Bible Study Fellowship. Her hobbies and interests include reading, photography, beginning quilting, antiques, birding and traveling. She has recently taken up scrapbooking and plans to attend her second scrapbooking retreat in August.

Retirement has given her an opportunity to pursue new passions and interests.

We Need Your News!

SEND NEWS FOR THE JUNE-AUGUST
ISSUE OF **ZETA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER**
TO Linda Ewing, 106 Rebecca Rd., Moody,
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First Vice President-Jewel Lockridge
Second Vice President-Marsha Jaska
Recording Secretary-Laura Speegle
Corresponding Secretary-Margaret Hool
Treasurer-Lorraine Doshier
Parliamentarian-Lynette Hollingsworth

Visit the Alpha State Website:

www.deltakappagamma.org

**Zeta Chapter Website Now Accessible
On the Alpha State Website**

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