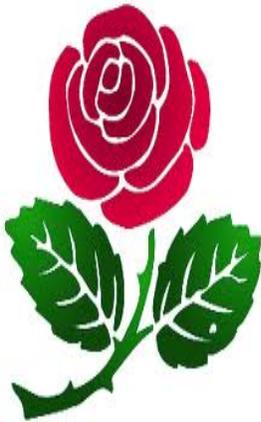


**THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA  
SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL  
ALPHA ZETA STATE**



*Rose and Key  
Awards*



*April 9, 2016*

*Every Chapter has the privilege to nominate one professionally active member to receive the Rose Award and one retired member to receive the Key Award.*

*Alpha Zeta State is pleased to honor those nominations and to give the Rose and Key Awards to this year's recipients.*

*This booklet lists all the recipients by Chapter and includes the information that was submitted with the nomination.*

**Alpha Chapter**



**Helen Allen**

**2011**

**An elementary school teacher in Secaucus for grades 3 and 4, Helen has been a quiet, industrious member of Alpha Chapter since 2011. Helen assists and supports her Alpha sisters but especially in the area of World Fellowship. Each meeting she and another sister introduce in an innovative way for the chapter to support World Fellowship. The ideas are creative and attention grabbing. Helen was elected Teacher of the Year and Jaycee of Achievement Woman for Secaucus. Helen has actively led both Girls and Boys Scout troops and been a leader in scouting for over 60 years. She has served as a Sunday School teacher for 50 years. We are proud to nominate Helen Allen for the Rose Award.**

**Alpha Chapter**



**Catherine Cleenput**

**2001**

**As an Alpha Sister and President for the past two biennia, Cathy has been a hard-working member of our chapter. She has been an Alpha since 2001. Cathy received her Masters from Columbia and before retiring she was the Gifted and Talented Teacher/Coordinator for the New Providence School District. Cathy is also active in serving at her local food bank and kitchen. She is a Ham Radio volunteer. While teaching, she received the Governor's Teacher Recognition Award as well as numerous awards for Gifted and Talented programs. Cathy has served on Alpha's Social Committee and as 2nd Vice President before becoming Alpha's president. It is with much appreciation for all the leadership and passion she has given to our chapter that I nominate Cathy Cleenput for the Key Award.**

**Beta Chapter**



**Karen Wildermuth**

**2009**

**Karen Wildermuth exhibits all the best qualities of a DKG sister. She has held numerous offices in Beta, including recording secretary, is active in her community and church. Karen spearheaded our Beta Project of sewing dresses for a village in the Dominican Republic, in conjunction with her church. Karen has traveled with her mission group to this village and is arranging for the mission leaders to attend our May meeting. Karen also coordinated a drive for collecting essential items for the homeless. Congratulations, Karen, for all you do for others.**

**Beta Chapter**



**Judy Cirelly**

**2009**

**Judy Cirelly is a woman who gets things done! She is a dedicated member of Beta, who has gone above and beyond the call of duty, time and time again. She has developed charts of our chapter's statistics and information. She wrote a wonderful article about an older member, whom has not been able to attend meetings recently. Judy also created our Beta Newsletter with two versions, one with photos for our members and one without photos for our website. She pleads for news for the newsletter with clever prose. Judy once stated that it was a privilege and honor to be a member. Judy, it is our privilege to honor you!**

**Gamma Chapter**



**Michelle Maruca**

**2013**

**Michelle is an exceptional educator who has truly distinguished herself as an advocate for children and the humane treatment of animals. Her position as Basic Skills Interventionist, Data Designee and Lead Teacher enables her to work closely with students, parents and staff to identify the needs of underachieving students as well as instructional strategies that will assist them in reaching their maximum academic potential. She also worked in the Basic Skills/Title I Brain Gym Summer Enrichment Program and coordinated the Latino Family Literacy Program. Michelle has a Master of Arts Degree in Educational Leadership from Thomas Edison State College. She developed a unique model to teach service learning to very young children. As a result of her efforts, she received a “Promising Practice Award” in 2009 from the Character Education Partnership. based on her service learning project titled “*Meeting the Needs of Animals through Service Learning*”. She now serves as a member of the Gamma Chapter Executive Board, the Future Leadership Development and Program Committees.**

**Gamma Chapter**



**Angela Belmont**

**2004**

**Angela Belmont has been an active sister since her initiation . Angela chairs the Chapter Fundraising and State Social Committee Tri-Chair for two biennia. She is a workshop presenter for this year’s AZS convention. As a retired teacher, supervisor, vp, Angela continues to share her educational expertise. She fills interim vacancies in her previous school district. Angela recently returned from the Dominican Republic where she taught, provided professional development for the teacher, supplies materials and raised money for student uniforms. Angela is well known for her activity in her church and fire district as well. Angela epitomizes what a Key recipient should be.**

**Delta Chapter**



**Nancy Simmerman**

**1999**

**Member of Inspiration, Social, Communications/Circulation, Technology, Breast Cancer Run, Historian/Archives Committees and Chapter President round out the obvious contributions made to Delta by Nancy Simmerman since her initiation in 1999. She graduated from Eastern University and has completed graduate work at both Rowan and Stockton. Professionally, she is an elementary teacher and media specialist who brings the world of books and technology to life for her students. She is a member of many educational and community organizations and has been named Teacher of the Year for her school. She is owner/operator of a campground and enjoys photography and spending time with her family.**

**Delta Chapter**



**Jayne Lee Lare**

**1998**

**By the way of Philadelphia, Illinois, and Indiana, our Key Award winner joined Delta in 1998. Since joining, she has served on our Literacy Committee, been a key member of our Breast Cancer Race Committee and served as Recording Secretary. Jayne taught elementary students for over 32 years, is a member of multiple educational organizations, was named Teacher of the Year for her district and a Governor's Teacher Recognition Program Recipient. Her "free" time is spent serving her church, singing with the Angelus Choir and traveling throughout Europe and the US. Spending time with her family rounds out our Key Award Recipient, Jayne Lare's very full life.**

**Epsilon Chapter**



**Lisa Hirkaler Murphy 2013**

The Epsilon Chapter is pleased to announce Lisa Hirkaler Murphy as the recipient of the 2016 Rose Award. Lisa has been an active member since 2013. She is currently an Art teacher at Vernon Township High School. She attended William Patterson and Columbia University on scholarships. As a National Board Certified Teacher and practicing artist, she presents at state and national conferences, regularly publishes and has several pieces on exhibit at area museums and galleries. She presented at our DKG 2015 convention. Global Awareness is her passion, evident in sister-school relations forged in Russia and South Africa, study in China under Columbia University, and fundraising projects initiated with students. Lisa was also recently named Sussex County Teacher of the Year for 2016.

**Epsilon Chapter**



**Patricia Yardley**

**2009**

Epsilon is delighted to announce Patricia Yardley as the recipient of the DKG Key Award for 2016. Pat was a speech therapist for 15 years. She was a Special Education teacher for Newton and Stillwater Schools. Pat served as a Learning Consultant for Stillwater and Fredon Schools. She was the President of the Sussex County Learning Consultants for 7 years. Pat worked as a consultant for 4 years in her own business. During her career she served as director of Special Needs student for NORWESCAP, started the first infant Stimulation Program in Sussex County, and developed the first Preschool Program for both Stillwater and Fredon Schools. Pat is currently serving as Co-chair of the Epsilon Membership Committee.

**Zeta Chapter**



**Staci Cornelius**

**2005**

**Staci has been an active member of Zeta since 2005. She currently serves as our Corresponding Secretary. Staci has also been active on the Convention Committee and Exhibits/Record Book. Staci is a seventh grade language arts teacher in the Toms River School district; part of that time being with the Gifted and Talented cycle. She graduated from Trenton State College with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. Staci has been a mentor teacher for incoming language arts teachers and has also been a cooperating teacher for student teachers due to her knowledge and skills in dealing with her subject matter and middle school students. Zeta is lucky to have such a devoted, active, and dedicated member in their chapter.**

**Zeta Chapter**



**JoAnne Applegate**

**2008**

**JoAnne Applegate has been an active member of Zeta since 2008. She continues to serve as our Second Vice President and is active in planning and attending our meetings as well as attending state meetings. JoAnne just received the Rose Award in 2015 for outstanding service to our Chapter. JoAnne has recently retired from Lacey Township where she was a guidance counselor. While there, she helped develop the Elementary Peer Mediation Program, Elementary Conflict Resolution Curriculum, and school wide- “Good Character” program. In the community, JoAnne has previously been elected to a leadership role with the Toms River Girls’ Softball League and has volunteered with the Making Strides American Cancer Society event. Zeta Chapter is thrilled to have JoAnne as a member and looks forward to her continuing service.**

**Eta Chapter**



**Meredith Lokan**

**2014**

**Meredith Lokan has been an active member of Delta Kappa Gamma, Eta Chapter since her initiation in April 2014. Meredith has shown outstanding service to Education and the children she teaches. She is very willing to go the extra mile to insure that she meets the needs of her students. She has been actively involved with Eta Chapter's special projects and activities, willingly giving of her time whenever needed. She currently teaches kindergarten at the Beverly City School District, Beverly, New Jersey. Meredith also has been a basic skills and 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher. Eta Chapter is lucky to have her as one of our young members. She gives up her Saturday mornings to attend AZS meetings and to sew dresses for our Dress A Girl Around the World project. Meredith was a member of the X's & Y's committee and is currently on the Leadership Development Committee. Eta is happy that Meredith is our Incoming Recording Secretary for 2016-2018.**



**Eta Chapter**

**Elizabeth Piechowski 1995**

**Betty Piechowski has been an active member of Eta Chapter since her initiation in April 1995. Her dedication to the teaching profession is evident through her participation in many of our projects and activities. Betty has served as Eta's Corresponding Secretary from 1998-2000 and followed that by being Chapter President from 2000-20002. More recently she was the committee chairperson on the Leadership Development Committee. Presently she chairs our Finance Committee. Her loyalty and hard work has contributed to the success of our chapter. Hosting chapter meetings and attending Alpha Zeta State Meetings are examples of her commitment to Education and Delta Kappa Gamma. Betty was employed by the City of Burlington School District where she taught for many years until her retirement. She was a former Treasurer of the City of Burlington Education Association and a Building Representative. Betty excelled as a classroom teacher, and a reading teacher. She supported her colleagues as a Lead Teacher. It was no surprise that she was named Teacher of the Year in Burlington City twice; once in 1993-1994 and again in 2004-2005. She also found time to support the PTA and be a member of the Parochial School Advisory Board. Betty is an active member in her church and participates in many functions giving freely of her time.**

**Iota Chapter**



**Barbara Freund 2007**

**Iota Chapter honors Barbara Freund as its candidate for the Rose Award. Barb has been an active Iota sister since her initiation in 2007 and presently serves as First Vice President. She has taught for 29 years and has been in Franklin Township for the last 17 years. Barb received her MA in Educational Leadership with a Certificate of Graduate Study in Middle School Math from Rowan University. She is currently the teacher of the Gifted and Talented students in the Main Road School and is a long time Treasurer of the Township of Franklin Education Association. Barb's willingness to undertake responsibility makes her an outstanding professional as well as educational leader, dedicated wife, mother and grandmother.**

**Iota Chapter**



**Jeanne Whalen 2000**

**Jeanne was initiated in 2000 and quickly became an invaluable member of our chapter. After serving as our Chapter's Vice President, Jeanne served two biennium terms as President. She continued to be a member of the Executive Committee when she took on the role of Corresponding Secretary. Jeanne is a retired teacher of the Township of Franklin Public Schools where she taught for 30 Years. Jeanne received the Governor's Recognition Award of Excellence in Teaching in 1986. During that time, she also held the positions of Secretary and President of the Association for 17 years! In addition, she worked for 25 years as a UniServe Consultant for NJEA, and she served for 33 years on Kingsway Learning Center's Board of Directors. In 2008 Jeanne began working as a Clinical Teaching Supervisor for Fairleigh Dickinson University where she continues to mentor Student Teachers today. Jeanne's resourcefulness and leadership skills make her a wonderful candidate for this award. Iota is grateful for having such a wonderful sister as part of our chapter.**

**Lambda Chapter**



**Carol Boehm**

**2009**

**Carol Boehm was initiated into Lambda Chapter in 2009 and has taken on responsibilities at the state and chapter level. In Lambda she was responsible for creating our website. Carol has been co-chair of the initiation committee for AZS for three biennia. Carol obtained her degree as a music teacher and has been a music teacher in the Red Bank Borough School District since graduation. An active member of NJEA, Carol currently serves as president of her district's union. Carol is involved in community music activities serving as the conductor of the Monmouth County Band. Lambda Chapter is proud to present Carol with the Rose Award.**

**Lambda Chapter**



**none**

**Nu Chapter**



**none**

**Nu Chapter**



**Theresa Oberg**

**2005**

**Terry graduated from Bloomsburg University and over a period of 40 years was a great influence on the nature of Shawnee High School and had a major impact on the math curriculum. While teaching, Terry earned her EdM Secondary Math Education and Juris Doctor Law degrees from Rutgers University. She was much-admired by her students, a wonderful mentor to younger teachers, and was Teacher of the Year in 1992. Terry has been an active participant in Nu Chapter since joining in 2005. She has assisted on the finance committee, handled funds for combined workshops, and served as treasurer since 2012. As co-chair of the exhibits committee, Terry has created beautiful scrapbooks depicting various Nu Chapter events. Terry's commitment and terrific work ethic make this sister well-deserving of the Key Award.**

**Xi Chapter**



**Vicky Myers**

**2013**

**Vicky Myers has only been a member of Xi Chapter for a few short years, but has come to be a vital part of our organization. She can be counted on to help when help is needed. Vicky gives of her time and her heart volunteering at Gilda's Club of South Jersey and serving meals at the Atlantic City Rescue Mission. Vicky is not only a teacher who has worked with students from second to eighth grade in all subject areas, but also a social worker. She earned her Masters in social work in 2006. As a special educator, Vicky has worked with and helped many of Hamilton Townships' most difficult population and has been an inspiration to her colleagues. Xi is proud to nominate our Chapter Chaplain for this year's Rose Award.**

**Xi Chapter**



**Rose Rhine**

**2011**

**Xi Chapter's Key Award winner is one of eight children, the only girl, so right away you know she must be special. She is an expert skier, rower, and gardener. She is also a dedicated member of our chapter who is willing to help in any way she can, whenever she can. Rose is a master teacher who then became a learning consultant, and served Hamilton Township schools for 25 years. She has positively impacted the lives of many children and their families. She is a true advocate for children within the district and without. Rose has volunteered helping in a camp for children diagnosed with AIDS and their families, doing any job that needed to be done. She volunteers her time to work with the children at Gilda's Club and serves lunch at the Atlantic City Rescue Mission. Yes, Rose is someone who volunteers without being asked. She just pitches in whenever anyone needs anything, just because...just because that's Rose. We are proud to know her and Xi is proud to have her as one of our own.**

**Omicron Chapter**



**Dr. Judith Stegmaier-Nappi 2012**

**Omicron Chapter proudly recognizes Dr. Judith Stegmaier-Nappi as its Rose Award recipient. Initiated into DKG in 2001, Judy transferred into Omicron Chapter in 2012. She has diligently served our chapter as our Legislative/Leadership Committee chair. She has presented several workshops at AZS and DKG regional conventions. After spending 25 years in public education, during which Dr. Nappi served as principal, assistant superintendent, and director of curriculum and instruction, she began her career as a university professor, currently teaching at Rider University. She has authored numerous articles on education, including an article in the DKG Bulletin. Congratulations, Dr. Judith Stegmaier Nappi!**

**Omicron Chapter**



**Beth Selfridge 2007**

**Hard-working, inspirational, and a fighting spirit, are just a few words that describe Beth Selfridge. Beth's love for teaching and children did not stop when she retired in 2007 from the Barnegat Township school district. A DKG Rose Award recipient in 2007, she is now receiving the DKG Key Award in 2016. This just proves her continued dedication and amazing work ethic as she works tirelessly behind the scenes to always contribute to our organization. Beth is a very active member in the Omicron Chapter. She is currently co-chair for The Books for Babies program, co-chair of our yearbook committee, and works as a mentor to help prepare others to take leadership roles. Beth is known for her creative and musical side, composing lyrics and poetry within the Omicron Chapter. She is a loving family member and sister to all. Beth has held numerous executive roles, worked on professional development, and continues to mentor new members. She is more than deserving of this 2016 Key Award. Congratulations Beth!**

**Pi Chapter**



**Diane Cummins**

**2005**

**Pi Chapter proudly recognizes Diane Cummins as its Rose Award recipient. Since joining Pi Chapter in 2005, Diane has been an active, dedicated member who did not hesitate to step into a leadership role when she was called upon. Through her ongoing commitment to Pi Chapter, Diane exemplifies the mission and seven purposes of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. She currently serves as Pi's chair of Educational Excellence and Leadership. Diane is the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction for Clearview Regional School District. In 2004, she received the Teacher of the Year award for Clearview Regional School District, Gloucester County Teacher of the Year, and New Jersey State Teacher of the Year. These accolades are truly deserving of a professional who continues to make a positive impact on the education of Clearview Regional students. She is an avid supporter of the Arts at Clearview Regional and will do what she can to support various choir and drama activities. Her colleagues look to her as an exemplary educator and admire and respect her. Diane's knowledge, dedication, and leadership are a few of the qualities that make her an outstanding Pi sister and educator and why she is truly deserving of the Rose Award.**

**Pi Chapter**



**Doris Eith**

**2011**

**Pi Chapter is honored and pleased to recognize Doris Eith as its Key Award recipient. Doris has been an active, dedicated member of Pi Chapter since 2011. In the past five years, she has served our chapter in numerous ways. She is presently serving Pi as Membership/Expansion/Initiation chair. Doris is someone you can count on to always get the job done. After a 40 year career in education, Doris retired from West Deptford School District where she served as a school librarian for 18 years. Prior to becoming a school librarian, she taught for 22 years and worked with students in grades 4, 5, 6 and 8. She was awarded the Gloucester County Governor's Teacher Award for West Deptford Middle School in 1989. Since her retirement, Doris is active in the West Deptford Seniors Club, the West Deptford Women's Club and the Gloucester County Retired Educators Association where she is membership co-chair and liaison to the Gloucester County Educators Association. She is a part-time librarian at the West Deptford Public Library and volunteers at Inspira Hospital in Woodbury. Doris's kindness, compassion, dedication, and vibrant spirit are just a few of the reasons Pi Chapter is proud to present her with the Key Award.**

**Rho Chapter**



**Crystal Di Betta 2010**

**The Rho Chapter chose Crystal DiBetta as the recipient of the 2016 Delta Kappa Gamma Rose Award for her professionalism, devotion to DKG and excellent educational practices. She received the Teacher of the Year award in 2005. Crystal is a library media specialist and puts tremendous energy into creating and maintaining an excellent program at Robert Hunter School in Flemington. She has served on the DEAC committee in her district and has been on the Instruction Committee for NJEA. She is a model of excellent teacher practice. She is respected by colleagues and parents alike and loved by her students.**



**Rho Chapter**

**Pamela Mount Watkinson 2004**

**The Rho Chapter chose Pam Watkinson as the recipient of the 2016 Delta Kappa Gamma Key Award for her dedication, professionalism, and integrity. Before her retirement in June 2015, she devoted thirty-eight years to education. She taught a variety of grade levels, ending her career as a resource center teacher at Franklin Township School. Pam earned the Teacher of the Year award in 2007 and the Rose Award in 2008 and 2011. She attended a summer seminar to the “Infamous Sites of the Holocaust” in 2013 and has been instrumental in promoting Holocaust education. We thank her for her exceptional commitment to Delta Kappa Gamma.**

**Sigma Chapter**



**Annette Harris**

**2013**

**A twenty-six year veteran of the Gloucester Township School District, Annette Harris has taught second and fourth grades and has served as math interventionist. She received her undergraduate degree from Glassboro State College in 1989 and received her Masters from Marygrove University in 1999. In 2013-2014, she was nominated for Teacher of the Year at Loring Elementary School. Initiated into Sigma Chapter in 2013, she currently serves as World Fellowship Chairperson. She often volunteers to take on additional duties and has been selected as 1<sup>st</sup> VP, chairperson of Programs. She is active in her community's residents' association, teaches religious education for her church and was a Girl Scout leader.**

**Sigma Chapter**



**Susan Yoder**

**2011**

**Retirement from teaching after 38 years in the Cherry Hill Schools did not deter Susan Yoder, a 1971 graduate of Glassboro State College from continuing her passion for education. In addition to consulting, presenting and being president of West Jersey Reading Council for 5 years, she contributed her efforts to Sigma Chapter soon after her initiation in 2011. Susan has also served in the positions of VP and Membership Chair. Among the impressive awards for her educational pursuits and community involvement are the following: The Mary Cudemo-Schurig Award for Literacy given by WJRC and Woman of the Year Award bestowed by The Collingswood Business Association.**

