



# Alpha Zeta State News

*Seek Commitment, Embrace Connections and Celebrate Achievement  
As We Share Our Vision, Strengthen Our Society*

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

Volume 62, Issue 3

Spring 2015

## A SUCCESSFUL 2015 CONVENTION!

*Barbara Smith, AZS Program Planning Chair*

**SEE PAGES  
6-7 FOR A  
PICTORIAL  
DISPLAY.**

Based on sisters' positive comments and evaluation responses, this year's AZS Convention was a success! We were delighted to have Dr. Beverly Helms as our international guest and Angie Ruffin from North Carolina. The accommodating venue, the Friday Night Social, the breakfast tickets for Saturday and Sunday, the variety of breakout sessions, and the pleasure of having two keynote luncheon speakers, Dr. Helms and Angie Ruffin, all contributed to make the weekend special.

After reviewing all of the evaluation forms from the twelve breakout sessions, it was apparent that they met everyone's educational and/or personal needs. The program planning committee helped to recommend and choose these programs/presentations. As in the past, the committee continues to do an outstanding job in selecting and approving breakout sessions that are popular with our members.

We were delighted to receive a donation to our Educational Stipend Fund from one of our presenters, Phil Jaeger. Phil donated his travel stipend, given to non-member workshop presenters, back to AZS into one of our funds for our members. Over the years, Phil has provided many interesting and entertaining presentations at our conventions. This generous donation of fifty dollars was graciously accepted by AZS.

It is now time to begin finding and recommending programs for our 2016 convention. The new recommendation forms are currently posted on the AZS webpage for the 2016 Convention. They must be completed and sent to Carol Schwartz NO LATER than September 1, 2015. Programs to consider include technology skills, DKG Society information, current educational issues/strategies, low impact exercise class, women's health issues, and stress management or reduction. These were recommended by our membership via their evaluation forms. If you know of someone who can lead a breakout session for any of these topics, or other topics, please fill out a recommendation form.

At the state meeting in September, it will be important for all chapter program-planning chairs to attend. All breakout session programs/presentations will be decided at this meeting. Members, on their evaluation forms, recommended many book discussion titles for next year's convention. The list for chapter voting for book discussions will be created in September, published and distributed to each chapter for vote next fall. If you would like, you may submit additional titles to your chair by the end of August so they can bring them to the meeting in September, so plan to be there. The date for the meeting will be posted on the AZS Website in July.

Chapter program planning chairs have accumulated some new ideas for programs or projects over this biennium. Please consider them when planning your chapter meetings for the 2015-2016 year.

It has been a pleasure working with so many AZS members this past biennium. I look forward to working with more of you in the future. Thank you.



## *From the desk of Mary Conover, AZS President...*

I knew it was true, but now there is not the slightest hint of a question. Teachers, especially committed, outstanding teachers, such as those found throughout DKG, are my favorite people in the world.

During my teaching career I was very fortunate to have the opportunity to teach various age levels and various subject matters, giving me the opportunity to work with many educators from differing backgrounds. Then, for approximately ten years, I simply worked for the National Diffusion Network as a workshop trainer. I say "simply" since that position was much "simpler" than my customary position as a teacher of 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Of course, as a full-time trainer I was fortunate to interact with educators from varying disciplines and in various settings throughout and beyond the fifty states during our three-days of training. I quickly realized that teachers, above all other professionals, held my greatest admiration and love. Certainly, administrators and supervisors who remained teachers at heart were included in my personal admiration society.

As detailed at convention, it is with the support and cooperation of the "best" of the profession, AZS women, that each goal of the 2013-2015 biennium has been accomplished or satisfactorily addressed: to develop chapter rules and strategic action plans; to strengthen membership by attending to members with varying levels of professional accomplishments, personal experiences, and DKG involvement; to implement and review carefully and completely newly revised state bylaws, standing rules, and the strategic action plan; and to strive to use technology effectively in Alpha Zeta State. Once again, it is the teacher/members of AZS who have my greatest admiration and appreciation for their support and commitment not only to our profession but to AZS/DKG.

Serving as AZS President for the 2013-2015 biennium has truly been a privilege. I have been allowed to work with, learn from, and share with an incredible group of women... YOU. . . the best of the best! The knowledge, creativity, humility, warmth, and dedication of AZS women to children, education, women's issues, and our Society is amazing. Our past state presidents, elected officers, committee leaders, appointees, chapter leaders, and general membership have allowed me to grow, to reflect, and, of course, to enjoy. After all, DKG = outstanding women educators, my very favorite people! Thank you for an amazing two years!

## **Biannual Transition Session for AZS Committee Members Being Planned**

The AZS committee transition session will be held on June 6, 2015 at the Sayen Elementary School in Hamilton Twp., NJ. Registration will be held from 9:30 - 10:00 AM. The 10 AM session will be adjourned by approximately 11:30 AM. If you need to stay and continue working with your committee chair or state officer, please stay. This will be the perfect stress free environment for everyone to become comfortable with their new positions and responsibilities or refine their current AZS committee responsibilities. The newly elected AZS officers are looking forward to working with all our AZS committees as our team moves AZS forward with strength and commitment.

## **Installation of New Officers for 2015-2017**



AZS's officers for the 2015-2017 biennium were installed at Saturday night's dinner during Convention. Pictured right to left: Barbara Smith, *president*; Carol Schwartz, *first vice-president*; Dr. Pamela Albert-Devine, *second vice-president*; Susan Davis, *recording secretary*; Ingrid Williams, *corresponding secretary*; and Roxanne Adinolfi, *nominations chair*.

***"It is the teacher/  
members of AZS  
who have my  
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profession but to  
AZS/DKG"***

**Alpha Zeta State News**  
Official publication of  
the  
Alpha Zeta State  
Organization  
of The Delta Kappa  
Gamma  
Society International  
published three times a  
year

**2013-2015**  
Mary Conover,  
*President*  
Barbara Smith, *First  
Vice-President*  
Sharon Long, *Second  
Vice-President*  
Dr. Pamela Albert-  
Devine,  
*Corresponding  
Secretary*  
Carol Schwartz,  
*Recording Secretary*  
Ellen Hahn, *Treasurer*

**Newsletter**  
Dr. Margaret Niemiec,  
*Editor*  
Jane Tallmadge,  
*Circulation*

# Chapter Rules: Reminders - What's Next? - Thank You!

*Faith Steinfort and Babette Wise, AZS Rules and Bylaws Co-chairs*

**Reminders:** We need both an electronic and hard copy of your chapter rules. **Final, approved, electronic copies of chapter rules are due June 1, 2015. Hard copies may be either mailed by or brought to the AZS meeting June 6, 2015.** This deadline is very important so that the new state rules and bylaws chairs will have the current information.

## **What's Next? - Keeping Chapter Rules Up-To-Date**

To keep chapters current, consider the following:

- Ask the chapter recording secretary to make a copy of the approved minutes signed by the president for the chapter Rules and Bylaws Chair(s).
- Have the secretary include a section labeled "Actions Taken", "Motions Approved", etc. at the end of chapter minutes. This makes it quick and easy for anyone who needs to go through minutes to identify policy changes or items that may warrant a change in chapter rules. If, according to your chapter rules, they can be amended by a simple majority vote, and members have received or do not need prior notification of changes to the chapter rules before voting on them, those changes can be incorporated after the chapter meeting without an additional vote.
- Make it a responsibility of the Rules and Bylaws Committee to update the chapter rules, if necessary, at the end of each year and submit updated chapter rules to the AZS Rules and Bylaws Committee each biennium, as stipulated in the AZS Bylaws, Article V Section B.4, so that their records are accurate. Actually, they could be updated at the end of each chapter meeting at which actions have been taken that necessitate a change in the chapter rules.
- Should you decide to have a chapter handbook, be sure to update it as well as changes occur, such as changes in officer and committee chair responsibilities, changes of location for chapter paraphernalia, etc.
- Finally, when your chapter History and Archives Committee chair assembles, organizes, and updates selected materials for the archives at Georgian Court University, consider keeping a copy of your latest chapter rules in the archives.

**Thank You Chapter Rules and Bylaws Committees!!!** You have truly succeeded in making your chapter rules rule! It has been our privilege and honor to work with so many wonderful, dedicated and diligent sisters. We are so appreciative of your commitment, enthusiasm, and support.



## ***AZS State and International Scholarships and Stipends***

*JoAnne Applegate, DKG-AZS Scholarship Co-Chair*

The ***Elizabeth M. Bozearth State Scholarship*** is available to members of DKG-AZS who are members in good standing for 3 or more years and have been accepted into a graduate degree program in an approved institution of higher learning. The application deadline is December 15.

***AZS Professional Growth Stipends*** are available to members for professional growth, personal development, research, travel related to one's field of work, educational and/or community service projects and conference attendance related to one's field. Members can apply individually or as a team member. The next application deadline is December 15.

The ***Margaret Abel Scholarship Award*** provides a grant-in-aid to assist outstanding women preparing to enter the field of education. Applicants must be a female graduate or undergraduate student who has begun her professional program leading to an initial teacher certification, a resident of New Jersey and enrolled in a four year college or university. The application deadline is December 15.

Information and applications for all AZS scholarships and stipends can be found on the state website: <http://www.dkgalphazetastate-nj.weebly.com>.

As many as 30 ***International Scholarships*** are available to members to apply for who are pursuing advanced degrees. Information about International Scholarships can be found on the International website at [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org).

The ***Lucile Cornetet Awards for Professional Development*** are available to DKG members who are employed educators who meet the established criteria. For more information, go to [www.dkggef.org](http://www.dkggef.org).



## Start Packing for Baltimore!!

The Northeast Regional Conference, July 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, held at the Hyatt Regency at the Inner Harbor in Baltimore, promises to be an exciting and fun-filled experience for every DKG member. We in New Jersey are very fortunate to be within easy driving distance of all the fun!!

Our four days will be filled with experiences we will never forget. The city is packed with tour opportunities whether we choose the Charm City Circulator, the Baltimore Water Taxi, or another of the many convenient transport methods available to reach any of the exciting destinations available in and around Baltimore. Of course, the majority of our time will be spent with our sisters involved in DKG activities ranging from learning from speakers including Sean McComb, 2014 National Teacher of the Year, or enjoying breakout sessions including those presented by our own Dr. Nora Pollard, Irene Maskaly, Janel Schafer, Dr. Judy Merz, and Claire Swanson. Other planned activities include the comprehensive Info Fair, the marketplace, recognition of Barbara Smith as New Jersey's state president, the "Advancing Possibilities" Luncheon, the "Advancing Members" Breakfast, and the "Advancing DKG" Banquet. Of course, we are also encouraged to participate as workshop facilitators (contact Roxanne), as chorus members, and as Jersey Girls for our traditional Jersey Girls' dinner!!

Can't resist??? "Advance" on to registering and making plans to attend the 2015 Northeast Regional Conference! In addition to registering with international, a state sign-up will soon be available on our AZS website. Join your northeast sisters in "Bragging About Baltimore"!!



## IN MEMORIAM

*Cynthia Sokoloff, State Necrology Chair*

One of the most touching events held at convention is the Celebration of Life, Service of Remembrance. This ceremony honors the memories of sisters who have passed away this past calendar year.

Sisters remembered were:

Chapter	Sister	Initiated	Deceased
BETA	Helen S. Barrett	May 1982	February 16, 2014
	Ella M. Platt	April 1984	April 19, 2014
	Norma W. Sweeney	April 1984	February 21, 2014
GAMMA	Mary Yeatts-Yates	April 1955	February 15, 2014
ETA	Marion F. Huddleston	May 1995	January 1, 2015
NU	Joan Kay Stocker	April 1976	April 22, 2014



*Presenters at "A Celebration of Life"*

## Margaret Abel Scholarship Award Presented at State Convention

*Carol N. Scelza, Scholarship Committee Tri-Chair*

The 2015 Margaret Abel Scholarship Award was presented at the state convention luncheon to Ms. Jamie DiLetto of Hamilton Township, Mercer County. Jamie is a senior at Rider University and currently completing her student teaching at Robbinsville High School. Her major is Secondary Education and English and her minor is Secondary Special Education. Jamie is an excellent student carrying a 3.916 grade point average and has been on the Dean's List every semester.

She has been awarded numerous honors including Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities for 2015; membership in the Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society; Kappa Delta Pi National Education Leadership Society; and has been the Rider University Professional Development Award recipient for three semesters. Jamie serves as vice president and treasurer for Council for Exceptional Children at Rider and president and head of public relations for Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society. She is diligent in pursuing professional development through attendance at workshops and conferences. She has participated in 12 different Professional Development activities during the last two years. She is proficient in instructional technology and works to keep her skills current.

*(Continued on page 5)*



## ROSE and KEY AWARDS 2015

*Luella Vengenock, Special Awards Chair*

The **Rose Award** is given to professionally active chapter members while the **Key Award** is given to retired chapter members for their outstanding service to education, community, or chapter. The year's recipients were recognized at convention and listed below. To learn more about these special ladies, look at [The Rose and Key Awards Booklet](#) found under the "Awards" tab on the Alpha Zeta website.

This year's recipients were recognized individually at Convention (see list at right) and their certificates, pins, and descriptions are to be presented in-chapter. Complete descriptions of the recipients' achievements are found in [The Rose and Key Booklet](#) posted under the "Awards" tab on the AZS website.

### Rose Awardees



### Key Awardees



CHAPTER	ROSE	KEY
Alpha	Linda Leddy	Carolyn Dobies
Beta	Crystal Woolbert	Gloria Giordano
Gamma	Lori Sheridan	Jan Wilson
Delta	Jennifer Giorgio-Blum	Susan Campbell
Epsilon	Ruth Kane	Pam Raynor
Zeta	JoAnne Applegate	Sarah Schaefer
Eta	-----	Irma Lorenz
Theta	Michele Klamerus	-----
Iota	Catherine Schofield	Irene Maskaly
Kappa	-----	-----
Lambda	Annabelle Boehm	Bernadette Vath
Mu	-----	-----
Nu	Gail Gersie	Gail Griffin
Xi	Stephanie Gibbons	Winnie Witmer
Omicron	Diane Sneddon	Linda Hoffman
Pi	Delores M. Bathurst	Jackie Gould
Rho	Joanne Hyland	Jeanette Royer
Sigma	-----	Charlotte Orfe
Tau	-----	-----

### Margaret Abel Scholarship

*(Continued from p.4)*

Jamie has had several field experiences teaching in Mercer County school districts. She has had several substitute teaching assignments and served as a camp counselor/teaching coordinator. Jamie spent two weeks in Spain observing and collaborating with K-12 and special services educators. Additionally, she observed for one week in a technology and engineering program in Beijing and Shanghai, China. Jamie attended the luncheon with her mother, Mrs. Lynn DiLetto, who is very proud of her.



*President Mary Conover with Jamie DiLetto*

### IN THE NEWS

Jan Wilson's *Paris at Night* is featured on the cover of the latest edition of DKG News.

Try your writing skills by submitting your contribution to [Collegial Exchange](#), DKG's newest publication where one will be able to find practical ideas for their classrooms, their chapters, and their personal growth. AZS's own Dr. Judith Merz (Bulletin editor) and Dr. Nora Pollard serve on DKG's Editorial Board.





Convention Co-Chairs: (L to R) Mary Jean DiRoberto, Jan Paxton, and Sue Davis.

## 2015 CONVENTION WRAP-UP

*Mary Jean DiRoberto, General Convention Chair*

Jan Paxton, Sue Davis and I would like to thank chapter convention chairs for their assistance and Barbara Smith who planned the impressive program that helped make Convention 2015 a huge success. There were 320 people registered, including guests and presenters. The Friday night basket auction netted \$6,850 and book sales \$370.

In an effort to keep convention costs affordable, Conventions 2016 and 2017 will be held at the Doubletree Hotel on April 8, 9, 10, 2016 and March 31, April 1, 2, 2017. Save those dates!

Member evaluations are very important as they serve as our guide in preparing for future conventions. Last year, we negotiated to have breakfast included in the price of the hotel room. This year, we posted the convention trifold/agenda on the website before convention – all from recommendations.

In closing, Jan, Sue and I would like to especially thank President Mary Conover for her guidance during her biennium and being a joy to work with.

## Alpha Zeta Convention 2015 Memories

*Michele Contala, AZS Photographer*

### Registration



### Basket Auction



### Ice Cream Social



### Welcoming and Meeting Friends



### Art Show





# Alpha Zeta Convention 2015 Memories

Michele Contala, AZS Photographer

## Business Meeting



## Workshops



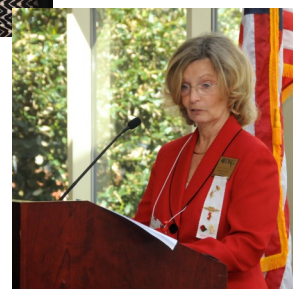
## Luncheon & Keynote Speakers



## Initiation and Banquet



## Sunday Business Meeting





## AZ STATE CHAPTER NEWS



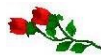
### ALPHA CHAPTER:

Cathy Cleenput, *president*

Organized by Debbie Hoeflinger, Alpha chapter members filled stockings at our holiday luncheon to be sent to U.S. troops in Kuwait for the second year in a row. This was part of [adoptaplatoon.org](http://adoptaplatoon.org), an organization of mothers of soldiers serving our country. Alpha Chapter has supported Cornerstone Shelter, a Salvation Army emergency shelter for adults and children in Montclair. Members were very generous in their collection of useful items such as toiletries, detergents, art and school supplies, and gently used linens.

Our sisters have accomplished a number of achievements. Linda Leddy just led a six-week long celebration of reading for Read Across America for 325 Pre-K through 4<sup>th</sup> grade students. 1500 books were read with 68 students winning gold, silver or bronze medals. Rebecca Lilienthal was awarded the Parsippany Rotary Club's Educator of the Year for 2014-2015. On June 30<sup>th</sup>, Evelyn Oberndorf retires as a music teacher from Cedar Grove Schools. Ginny Jones has been elected to a 3-year term on the Wallkill Valley Regional High School Board of Education. Debbie Hoeflinger will present a workshop entitled "Killer Heels", a history of women's shoes for the Morris Community School, a county educational program for adult continuing education. She also presented "The Witchcraft Craze of the 1600's" at Horizons Morris Community School. A Teach to Lead profile was published on the U.S. Department of Education website highlighting a teacher's leadership journey called "Stepping Out of My Comfort Zone" for member Maryann Woods-Murphy. *Education Post*, a national education website, posted a video featuring Maryann discussing the importance of critical thinking in the Common Core State Standards. The NEA Foundation created a video highlighting Maryann, its Global Fellows member, who shares her thoughts on creating a global perspective in the classroom. Alpha Chapter welcomed a new member, Joanna Petritsis, from Northern Highlands Regional High School in Allendale.

featured in the DKG online gallery and last, but certainly not least, the chapter accolades received at convention for meeting President Conover's X and Y challenge and a Chapter of Excellence.



### DELTA CHAPTER:

Karen Cohen, *president*

At she nears the end of her first year as president of Delta chapter, Karen Cohen is very grateful, thankful, and impressed with the generosity of all the Delta sisters who continually and unselfishly give of themselves in whatever way they can to help continue to make our chapter strong and vibrant. They are very excited to be welcoming eight new initiates at our May 7th meeting who will be joining them in our continued journey with DKG: Victoria France, Lee-Anne Kane, Erin Majane, Lauren McVey, Donia Mills, Jennifer Parmelee, Tracy Reynolds, and Kristin Stiles.

A "shout out" and "thank you" is given to our Literacy Committee, chaired by Kathleen Mazari, for not only fulfilling their obligations to the committee but also branching out to others areas. Our literacy committee (Project Read to Me) was conceived in 1998. Along with the Lower Township Rotary Club and Cape May County Education Association, we provide new mothers who deliver at Cape Regional Hospital with a new children's book and literacy material for their newborn. Our Literacy Committee will begin to branch out into other areas such as doctors' offices! It was wonderful to have the committee involve children from their classes to help stuff the packets exemplifying the fun in volunteering!



### GAMMA CHAPTER:

Saula Cutter, *president*

Gamma Chapter has had a banner year. It started with our Program Eight team and First Vice-President Toni Halsey planning a great year of events, each with a service component. We have experienced a wide range of activities from celebrating members' milestones, touring a sister's family owned winery and game night, to bowling. Our service projects included making games for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, Books for Babies and collecting towels and blankets for a local animal shelter. Participation in our programs is on the rise. We have reinvented some of our technology facilitated communication strategies and are looking forward to a newly designed chapter newsletter. Gamma sisters continue to enjoy our SPARKS events that range from mahjong to knitting. Many sisters are looking forward to our SPARKS event to be held at Olde City Quilts this summer.

We are extremely proud of Gamma Chapter accomplishments. First, chapter sister Carol Schwartz who was newly installed as AZS first vice-president, Jan Wilson whose art is



### EPSILON CHAPTER:

Pam Raynor, *president*

The sisters of Epsilon are delighted to share so much good news since our last edition. In April, 26 sisters and 4 initiates attended the DKG Convention and were pleased to receive the President's Award for Chapter Excellence. Epsilon was also acknowledged for celebrating 55 years as a chapter. Katherine Bedell, an Epsilon sister for 50 years, was presented with a beautiful certificate and a large flower basket for her years in Delta Kappa Gamma. Barbara Henderson and Pam Raynor delivered the award, the flower basket, a pin, and a rose coffee mug to Katherine during their afternoon visit a few days later. Katherine was pleased and very grateful to all of the sisters from Epsilon as well as Alpha Zeta State. Epsilon was also bestowed a certificate for meeting the XY initiative, thanks to our newest sisters. Two of our sisters, Dr. Kitsy Dixon and Lisa Hirkaler, each presented a workshop at this year's convention. On Friday evening, four lucky sisters were winners of baskets. Epsilon sold out of their DKG bracelets, orders were taken, and the



## AZS CHAPTER NEWS

*Continued from previous page.*

sisters will get together to make bracelets. I am pleased to announce that Epsilon sisters voted to accept the latest edition of our chapter rules. Lisa Hirkaler, an art teacher in Vernon, has been selected Sussex County's Teacher of the Year.

On a sad note, the sisters of Epsilon will hold their own Necrology service for 3 former sisters at their May meeting. We will be saying good-bye to Mary Ann Schoettly, June Bach and one of our founding sisters, Catherine Mound Morgan.



## IOTA CHAPTER:

Candice Zachowski, *president*

After 37 years of teaching, Stacy Kasse is retiring as of July 1. Her career began in the USVI on the island of St. Thomas and ended in Medford, NJ. In between she has been an exchange teacher in Australia! She is looking forward to becoming a member of the EDIS (Every Day is Saturday) Club and working with DKG. She will be presenting at ISTE, the International Society of Technology Education, in Philadelphia this June. Come see her at the [www.gynzy.com](http://www.gynzy.com) booth.

Debi Steinender is currently 2nd VP and Recording Secretary for Atlantic County Education Association. She is also the Teacher of Pet First Aid for Buena Out-of-School-Time program. She was voted the Cleary Elementary School's first Educational Professional. Debbie Wilson won the Educational Professional award at Clearview Junior High.



## ETA CHAPTER:

Victoria Warner, *president*

ETA has awarded stipends to and offers congratulations to three Burlington County teachers to assist in the funding of excellent teaching practices in their classrooms. Selection of the awardees was based on an application which described the worthiness of the teacher's project. Dr. Melissa McQuoid of Burlington Township High School received \$400 for the purchase of echo chambers and ethanol measuring devices to be used with her biology students to measure evidence of the release of energy from the breakdown of food molecules in living cells. Mindy Janson of Edgewater Park's Magowan School received \$200 to enhance the writing workshop experience for her first grade students with each student receiving a hard bound copy of his/her original compositions. Annie Wood of Burlington Township High School received \$400 to support the Burlington Township Freshman Integrating Resources and Service Learning Together Project. The freshmen students will assemble food packages for the organization Stop Hunger Now. The meal packages are shipped around the world to support school feeding programs and crisis relief. It is a privilege to recognize such outstanding educators and their worthwhile projects.

Eta sister, Jeanne DelColle, has been published!! Jeanne, an Instructional Development and Strategic Partnerships Specialist at Richard Stockton College, in collaboration with Claudine Keenan, Dean of Education at Richard Stockton College, authored the Co-Teaching Partnerships for Excellence in the Age of Accountability: A Preliminary study of the Effects of Co-Teaching in Student Teaching. Accountability measures for educators have made districts reluctant to accept teacher candidates for clinical experience in a traditional take-over model. Difficulty placing teacher candidates prompted Richard Stockton College to research innovative student teaching models to strengthen clinical partnerships with P-12 districts. Based on a model from St. Cloud State University, a pilot study began at Stockton which identified co-teaching strengths in professionalism, teaching time, student learning, and cooperating teacher growth, with implications for strengthening future research.



## MU CHAPTER:

Kathy Froriep, *president*

To our great delight, charter member Lillie Hendry carried our banner with Puddy Flynn at the AZS Convention in Somerset. Thanks to her vision and commitment and to that of our sister charter members, Mu was organized 45 years ago, on April 19, 1969.

Mu's program chair, Natalie Smith, led another thought provoking book talk at the convention, as she has done so well in previous years. Natalie called it her "swan song", because she and her husband will be moving to South Carolina shortly. A Mu member since 1996, Natalie's contributions to our chapter, to AZS, and to the DKG sisters who know and love her are immeasurable. She truly captures the spirit of DKG. We have come to count on her beautiful and non-stop smile and positive attitude, her excellent organizational skills, her thoughtful and creative approach to programming, and her absolutely scrumptious food.

Puddy Flynn, who retired from full time teaching last year, and volunteers in a local school now, wrote a timely and important letter to the editor of her local paper early in April to stress the essential role media center specialists play in schools and other concerns. Her letter led to many conversations among stake holders, in formal school settings and in the community at large. Thank you, Puddy, for reminding us that we are ALL stakeholders in educational decisions and for bringing these vital concerns to the foreground.



## AZS CHAPTER NEWS

*Continued from previous page.*



### NU CHAPTER:

Christine Musick, *president*

Nu sister Mary Ellen McCloy has been involved with the Municipal Alliance in Burlington County for the past 24 years. This past year Mary Ellen was recognized as the Burlington County Volunteer of the Year by the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse to honor her dedicated service to the Alliance. Working as a liaison between the state, the county and the local communities, Mary Ellen's goal has been to raise awareness of the risks that drugs and alcohol present to the community and lower these risks through effective programs and actions. Some of the successful programs that Mary Ellen has helped implement include Project Graduation, Prom House 110, and Red Ribbon Week Activities.

Nu sister Beth Manning is receiving one of only 13 grants given by Shape America that will be used to enhance current programs focused on a healthy lifestyle. Recipients are recognized for their passion and commitment for physical education and the Jump Rope for Heart program. Beth, a 28 year veteran health and physical education teacher, certainly exemplifies these qualities. The Annual Jump Rope for Heart event that Beth organized and supervised has deep roots with Nu chapter sisters. The event was introduced by Nu sister Carol Ritter in 1991. Mary Ellen McCloy has been involved with the event for all the 24 years by assisting with registration and keeping records.

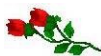


### OMICRON CHAPTER:

Gail Starr, *president*

Michele Cucinotta, Guidance Counselor at the Lillian M. Dunfee Elementary School in Barnegat Township, received training to facilitate the *Strengthening Families Program* (SFP). Although *Strengthening Families* is run by Barnabas Health, Michele was the first school counselor to bring the program to a school district. The Barnegat School District is the only district in Ocean County to host this program. The *Strengthening Families Program* is one of the most powerful programs to affect family change because it involves not just the parents or the children alone, but the whole family. The SFP is a 14-week program designed to help families learn the skills necessary to strengthen their family unit. There are seven families participating in the program. In helping families bond, the goal is for students to become more successful in school as well as to strengthen the home and school connection. The administration and Board of Education understand the positive impact a program like this can have on the families and schools in the district. Congratulations to Michele Cucinotta for her efforts in bringing this worthwhile program to the Barnegat Township School District.

Congratulations to Omicron member Ariane Phillips for being named Principal of the Frederic A. Priff Elementary School in Waretown, New Jersey. Omicron members are proud of Ariane's accomplishment and wish her the best in her new position.



### RHO CHAPTER:

Dr. Margaret Niemiec, *president*

Rho chapter is pleased to share that Tanya Drake, a first grade teacher at the Lester D. Wilson Elementary School in Alexandria Township, was named to the Kingwood Township Education Foundation's 2015 "Hall of Fame" as an alumni. She was honored at the KTEF's Annual Spring Gala in March. Tanya also serves as a president of the Alexandria Twp. Education Association.

We continue to be proud of the accomplishments of Mary Jean DiRoberto, Convention Chair, who played a major role in making this year's Alpha Zeta Convention a success! Way to go, Mary Jean! We welcome our new sisters, Jaclyn Nombre and Maryann Sajor, who were initiated at Convention.

Dr. Cynthia Pope who serves as the Director of the National Writing Project at Rutgers University presented "Tales from Traveling Teachers" at the 2014 NJEA Conference and "Digital Tools for Writers Workshop" at the 2015 Rutgers Reading and Writing Conference. Cynthia also served as the Conference Coordinator for the latter event. Cynthia is a teacher at Kingwood Twp. School.

Our successful jewelry sales fundraising activity this past fall has provided us the opportunity to present \$150 awards to one student at each of the five regional high schools in Hunterdon County who seeks to pursue a career in education.

We continue to support our charity, The Center for Great Expectations (CGE), which provides residential treatment for homeless pregnant and parenting women with substance abuse and mental health disorders and their children. In the fall, we collected requested items for mothers and babies. In winter, we made donations of bedding and clothing. In June, some members will assist with a luncheon, tricky tray and gift basket auction to benefit CGE. We look forward to our June meeting where we will be joined by President Mary Conover and making baby blankets for CGE.



### SIGMA CHAPTER:

Charlotte Orfe, *president*

After two very successful Meet and Greet, Sigma hosted their holiday dinner meeting with fifteen guests in attendance with a desire to join DKG. Out of the 15 who were offered membership, 13 decided to become members. With another perspective member deciding to join, Sigma's total



## AZS CHAPTER NEWS

*Continued from previous page.*

number of initiates was 14 – a state record! Joining us at our Holiday Dinner was our 2014 recipient of The Roxanne Adinolfi Educational Grant, Ashley Huiskens and her mother, Lisa Huiskens. Ashley had a very successful first semester, with a GPA of 3.65. Linda Dix brought two guests, Jane McCorkel and Joanne Campbell, to be honored as “Women of Distinction”. Last, but by far not least, our state president, Mary Conover joined us for the evening’s festivities.

Sigma sponsored many profitable fundraisers this year – Boscov’s Shoppers’ Passes, a jewelry demonstration, a manicure evening, a baking pan sale and a Sigma Day at AC Moore, as well as our basket raffles and note card sales.

Even though a majority of our members are retired, they certainly are not letting any grass grow under their feet. Many members volunteer in various capacities: student mentors, teacher mentors, volunteers for Bookmates and after school programs, helpers in classrooms in various schools and with ESL programs, as well as, those collecting and distributing various school supplies. We have members that volunteer for SHIP and CONTACT of Burlington County. Katie Yoder, a 2015 initiate, was selected to become a Master Teacher of the STEM program and recently received PLTW training in Indianapolis. Mary Francis Smolens, another 2015 initiate, was recently elected as the first female president of her local Rotary.

We all know how busy our working teachers are! But despite everything going on, they faithfully continue to support Sigma’s programs, fundraisers and service projects to the max!!! We **collected** and distributed school supplies to early educators and had a very successful book drive for St. Anthony of Padua School in Camden. Jane Murphy distributed our collection of cleaning supplies for the Interfaith Hospitality Network. We will be collecting school supplies for St. Cecelia’s School in Pennsauken at our May event.

Since we had the two Meet and Greets, we changed the format of our January event from an information night to “Hot Topics and Hot Food”. Sigma sisters and perspective members engaged in lively discussions of what is new in education and how to best implement these new practices, followed by a wonderful dinner and friendship. Our combined luncheon in March with Beta, Eta, Iota and Nu was a wonderful success and, of course, we all had a fabulous time at the AZS Convention. We are looking forward to initiating the rest of our new members at our May event. We will wrap up the year with our Roxanne Adinolfi Educational Grant Reception in June.

We do believe Sigma had a very successful year. We have grown in many ways by working together and supporting each other both professionally and personally. We look forward to an even bigger and better year in 2015-2016.

 **TAU CHAPTER:**  
Susan Beekman, *president*

Tau Chapter had a very busy year. We held four regular chapter meetings, a meeting with the northern chapters in the late winter and a successful fund raiser for Morris County Literacy Volunteers. Some of us went to the CTAUN meeting at the United Nations in January. Several people

from our small chapter also went to Convention this year. Our May meeting included planning for the coming year and after the report about this year’s convention, many said they plan to come in 2016.

We initiated two wonderful women this past year into our Chapter, Beth Azur, an administrator working in Mountain Lakes and Ruth Nielson, a professor at Morris County College. Both women are a wonderful asset to our chapter. We are working on reinstating a former member back to our chapter as well.

We are sorry to be losing our long time active member, Roberta Stephens, as she moves on to Virginia with her husband and son. We have already reached out to DKG in Virginia to make a contact so Roberta can be an asset to a chapter there.



*The photos in “Chapter News” share the chapter banner carriers at they process into the venue at the beginning of Saturday’s luncheon at Convention. Photos taken by Michele Contala, AZS photographer.*

## *Brilliant, amazing, magnificent, wonderful...*

These were words used to describe the 1<sup>st</sup> **Annual AZS Art Exhibit** held at our convention. Works of art including such mediums as oil paintings, watercolors, acrylic paintings, etchings, photography, watercolor/pen and inks, digital paintings, weavings with mixed-media as well as wicker were included in this year’s show. Featured artists included: Anne Avigdor (*Alpha*), Luella Vengenock (*Beta*); Linda Adams, Lisa Ocasio Hirkaler, Susan Crystal Hiebel, Suzanne Struble (*Epsilon*); Joanne Smith (*Eta*); Jan Wilson, (*Gamma*); Irene Maskaly, Mary Anne Morgan, Carol Sobolewski, Dana Taddei (*Iota*); Michele Contala (*Lambda*); Linda Locke (*Nu*); and Schuyler McClain (*Sigma*). A special thanks goes to the AZS Art Advocates: Linda Adams, Barbara Henderson, Irene Maskaly, Jan Wilson...and especially our leadership team: Mary Conover, Barbara Smith, and Mary Jean DiRoberto. A very special congratulations is extended to Jan Wilson on being the first AZS/New Jersey artist to have her works selected to the DKG Gallery of Fine Arts. Her work is available for viewing at [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org) in the spring 2015 gallery. Congratulations to all participants for a most amazing event!

## **LOOKING FOR A PROGRAM FOR YOUR CHAPTER?**

Check out program suggestions under “programs” on our website for excellent ideas. Additional program and project suggestions can also be found on our international website, [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org) on the Educational Excellence Committee (EEC) page in a document entitled “Collection of Programs, Projects, and Activity Ideas.”

## AZS Yearbook 2015 - 2016

It is time to gear up for the completion of the 2015 -2016 AZS Yearbook. Chapter presidents and yearbook chairs are responsible for updating all chapter information. Since this is the second year of the biennium for chapters, the only updates needed are in the areas of programs and members unless there has been a change in executive board or committee chair. Presidents and Yearbook Chairs will be emailed detailed directions by mid-May. Since all chapters have digital copies of their 2014 yearbook, updates will be made on those copies. The updated chapter pages will be sent to the AZS Yearbook Chairs for compilation and distribution. Submission of your chapter digital update deadline is **June 15<sup>th</sup>**.

## Dates and Deadlines

### June 2015:

- 1 - Last day to submit revised chapter rules to state co-chairs
- 1 - Submission of SAP information due to Roxanne Adinolfi
- 6 - AZS transitional/portfolio exchange meeting
- 15 - Deadline to submit chapter digital update

### July 2015:

- 8 - 11 - Northeast Regional Conference, Baltimore, MD

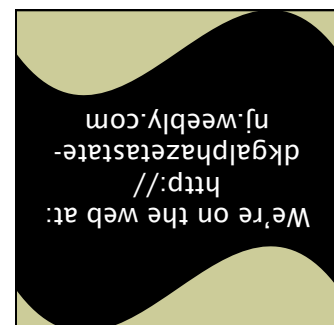
### August 2015:

- 1 - Deadline for submissions to DKG's **Collegial Exchange**. See <https://www.dkg.org/editorial-board> for description of articles encouraged.



*Baltimore, MD--home of the Walters Art Museum and the Inner Harbor's National Aquarium*

**Join us in Baltimore at the Northeast Regional Conference, July 8-11!**



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