

Alpha Zeta State News



Together we will succeed
Embracing our diversity
Advancing key women educators
Moving forward to achieve our goals

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---|------|
| President's Message | 2,3 |
| In Memoriam | 3 |
| Call for Nominations | 4 |
| Dedicated Service Awardee Michele Contala | 4 |
| U.S. Forum Seminar | 4 |
| Convention Recap | 5 |
| AZS Convention in Photos | 6 |
| Scholarship Awards | 7 |
| DKGEF Benefit at the Wildhorse | 7 |
| Chapter News | 8-11 |
| AZS Sisters' Work Recognized by DKG | 12 |
| Dates and Deadlines | 12 |



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

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Spring 2016

Welcome, new sisters!

Dr. Pamela Albert-Devine, Second Vice-President/Membership Chair

Alpha Zeta State would like to extend a warm welcome to our new sisters of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. At our annual convention this year thirty-four new members were initiated during our state's traditional ceremony. More than twenty of you have had or will have an equally unique initiation experience at your chapter meeting. Whichever event you participated in, we are honored to have you as our new members!



AZS officers prepare for the Initiation Ceremony

You have been identified as a Key Woman Educator. Your sponsor has recognized your dedication to your career, your successes in life, and the qualities of a leader who will continue to make a difference in the lives of everyone they meet. Our members impact education in their communities, our state, and across the world through projects, programs, and philanthropic endeavors. As membership chair, I encourage you to begin your involvement in your chapter immediately. Your sponsor is now your mentor, talk to her, and find out how you can get started on your DKG journey. What might that next step be on your DKG journey?

Are you willing to take the risk? Are you willing to take the next step? Your next step could be attending the International Convention July 5-9, 2016 in Nashville this summer! We hope you will be able to attend one or more days of the convention to experience the professional organization you have joined. For information, go to http://www.dkg.org/DKGMember/Events/2016_International_ConventionNashville.aspx. Please contact your mentor, or me, with any questions or information you may need about registering for the convention.

Your next step could be attending the Leadership Workshop on June 11, 2016 or the September 10, 2016 NJ State meeting. It could even be presenting a workshop at our 2017 State Convention! It could be to follow DKG on Facebook, Twitter or LinkedIn. There are many advantages to membership in our society. We urge you to visit the DKG International Web Site www.dkg.org to complete your Member Profile and to explore the links to learn more about our society. Take advantage of the opportunities and connections of your membership. You will see how these opportunities, along with active participation, can actually help change the world.

The nurturing environment of the Society encourages all members to grow and reach the highest levels of professional and personal accomplishments. Our members are committed to fulfilling their potential for greatness, for creativity, for leadership and for service through varied programs of action.

We are so glad you have joined our society and welcome you all! We are here to help you; opportunities are abound at the local, state, and international levels. Opportunities to enhance leadership development, financial opportunities to support members seeking educational advancement, opportunities to participate in forums on legislative issues, international networking opportunities across all fields and levels of education and more, all await you as a DKG member. Thank you for joining DKG, we look forward to our shared future as sisters.



A message from our president, Barbara Smith

The success of the Alpha Zeta State convention this year was an excellent example of the meaning of our 2015-2017 T.E.A.M. theme: Together we will succeed, Embracing our diversity, Advancing key women educators, Moving forward to achieve our goals. A wonderful time was had by all. The members of our New Jersey organization worked diligently to provide an event filled with professional and personal experiences in a genuine relaxed atmosphere. I am sure those who attended will have fond memories of the weekend to share with members not able to attend this year.

It was a pleasure getting to know our international guest, Sandra Smith Bull, DKG Executive Director, who spoke to us about "The Power of Positive Change" and presented her breakout session focusing on "Membership Diversity in DKG." Our members spent time with Sandra for dinner on Friday, at the basket raffle and dessert social. On Saturday, our initiates had the opportunity to interact with Sandra at their orientation session. Her interaction with our membership continued at the general session, the morning book discussion, during the luncheon and in the evening for the initiation ceremony and banquet. She shared pertinent information from our international leadership that will help Alpha Zeta State move forward supporting our key women educators and seeking excellence in education for all.

Joanne Applegate and Faith Steinfert, our state Scholarship Chairs, presented the Elizabeth M. Bozearth State Scholarship to Jeanne DelColle (Eta) and The Margaret Abel Scholarship Award to a non-member, Kristyna Marie Lynch, of Parsippany. Our AZS Dedicated Service recipient was proudly awarded by Barbara Henderson to Michele Contala (Lambda). We are honored to have these wonderful women as the recipients. Our AZS Rose and Key chapter recipients, presented by Luella Vengenock at the convention, will be available on our AZS Webpage.

We are preparing for the June 11th Chapter Officer Leadership Training at the Sayen Elementary School, Hamilton, NJ. Dr. Nora Pollard, State Leadership Chair, and I have planned an interactive leadership training for new officers. Participants will receive the tools necessary for guiding your leadership team through a successful biennium. The meeting will include the leadership session by Dr. Nora Pollard, followed by officer and other committee training as requested in a letter sent to each current chapter president. Light morning refreshments will be served as you arrive and a light lunch will be provided at the end of the morning activities. Registration for all 2016-2018 chapter officers and appropriate committee chairs should be sent by the current president to barbsmith40@comcast.net. The deadline date is June 1st.

We are also preparing for the 2016 International Convention in Nashville, Tennessee! The convention will be held in the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center, July 5-9. Creating the list of AZS members attending the convention in Nashville has begun. All AZS members who complete the Google survey form will be included on the cell phone and email lists so we can contact you with information about the convention.

Those attending the convention will have a chance to ask questions or make comments about the five proposals to amend the International Standing Rules by attending the information session included in the schedule. Take this advantage to have your voice heard. Detailed information was included in the March/April edition of the DKG NEWS. You may also contact individual members of the Constitution Committee listed in the same publication. At this convention we will also be voting to elect international officers and elected committee members for the 2016-2018 biennium. Each chapter should discuss the important I.S.R. items and the 2016 international nominees and contact me with your comments before the convention so I can represent our state when I vote in July.

Are you continuing your search for prospective members? Have you shared information about our organization with new teachers? Have you made contact cards or business cards to share with acquaintances you have met at local events and parties?

(Continued on page 3)

Alpha Zeta State News
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2015 - 2017
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In Memory of Marie J. McGuire AZS President 1993-1995

With the passing of Marie J. McGuire, Alpha Zeta State Organization President 1993-1995, on April 25, 2016, members in New Jersey lost a key leader, mentor, and friend. A dedicated 46-year member of Alpha Chapter, Marie chaired multiple committees and served as recording secretary, first vice president, and president of the chapter for two terms. At the state level, in addition to her term as president, she was second vice president, chair of program, co-chair of the newsletter, co-chair of the State Fashion Show for the 50th Anniversary, and co-chair for the 75th Anniversary. She was a faithful attendee at state convention, regional conferences, and international conventions.

Predeceased by her husband Joe in 1988, Marie retired in 2002 after a 48-year career that included 45 years in the Cedar Grove school district—service that was honored by dedication of the Marie J. McGuire Auditorium at the high school. With a BA in Spanish and a minor in accounting and education, Marie began her career as a fifth grade teacher in Secaucus, NJ, where she was a lifelong resident. She then transitioned to Cedar Grove, teaching Grades 7 and 8 until moving to the high school as a guidance counselor. After earning her MA in Student Personnel Services, Marie was appointed director of guidance, where she served for the remainder of her career.

Marie's quick wit and unfailing ability to organize and implement ideas made her a most memorable leader in Alpha Zeta State and beyond, and her mentorship of others was without parallel. The theme she chose for her biennium—*Remember the Past to Enrich the Future*—is a fitting memorial for this outstanding woman. As we remember what she gave to DKG and Alpha Zeta State, we are inspired to meet and achieve the challenges of the future with style and passion, the Marie McGuire way!

IN MEMORIAM

Ruth Mooney, 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 |
|---------|------------------------|------------|-------------------|
| Gamma | Sarah Reba Burrichter | April 1975 | August 22, 2015 |
| | Constance Hunt | April 1955 | November 15, 2015 |
| | Joyce Palumbo | April 1996 | November 16, 2015 |
| Epsilon | Lucille Whitmire | March 1966 | July 29, 2015 |
| Zeta | Florence Bak-Kernaghan | April 1987 | July 25, 2015 |
| | Carolyn M. Campbell | April 1961 | March 17, 2015 |
| Iota | Elizabeth Donahue | April 1971 | January 29, 2016 |
| Xi | Patricia Carmen | March 2007 | November 2015 |
| | Judith Gibson | April 1959 | April 2015 |

Scholarship/Stipend 2016 Deadlines

*Jo Anne Applegate, Jean Jaeger and
Faith Steinfert, co-chairs*

Looking for funding for an educational and/or community service project, attendance at a conference, research, travel related to your field of work, professional growth or personal development? Then you should apply for a AZS Professional Growth Stipend. You could be awarded up to \$1,000 for any of the aforementioned activities. The deadline for the first round of awards is September 1. The award or awards will be announced at the September State Meeting. Go to the AZS website for more information and for an application. December 15 is the deadline for the second round of Professional Growth Stipends, the Elizabeth Bozearth Scholarship and Margaret Abel Scholarship Award.



President's message (continued from page 2)

It is amazing how many women educators there are who need our support. Check your local newspapers and send a card to a newly hired teacher or teachers who have won awards or who were promoted. We can continue as a viable Society by constantly identifying the truly outstanding women dedicated to the field of education and inviting them to learn more about our New Jersey organization. Once they *join* our chapters, we must help them *belong* to our chapters. It is each member's responsibility to mentor new initiates, especially during the first year or two, and they too will value their membership. We can, and will, recruit and retain exceptional new members by involving them and sharing the benefits of being a Delta Kappa Gamma member.

NOMINATIONS: A CALL TO LEADERSHIP

Roxanne Adinolfi, 2015-17 AZS Nominations Chair

It is time to think about Alpha Zeta State (AZS) officers for the 2017 – 2019 biennium. Every member of our state has the potential and talent to lead. All interested members should communicate with their chapter and/or state nominations chair/s regarding the process. Current state officers are asked to inform the state chair whether or not they intend to seek another term in their current position or run for a different executive position. No member should be discouraged from seeking an office based on those who might run.

The 2016 nominations form is posted on the state website. The deadline for submission of 2017 – 2019 state officers is **September 30, 2016**. Committee members will meet in October to review all submissions and begin the process of developing a slate of officers to recommend to the membership. Nineteen members serve on the state nominations committee. The distribution represents one member per chapter. If members of this committee will change during the next biennium, incoming chapter presidents should notify the state chair on July 1st.

The 2016 – 2018 International Executive Board will be elected at the DKG Convention in Nashville, Tennessee. The January/February issue of the DKG News provides full disclosure regarding all nominees and those to be nominated at the convention. Please take time to review the information on pages 1 and 4-6. This information can also be found on the international and state websites. Contact AZS President Barbara Smith with your recommendations and preferences for those nominees you feel will best serve our organization.



Dedicated Service Award Presented to Michele Contala

Since 1990, the Dedicated Service Award recognizes a member of at least 10 years who has given extraordinary service to the Society at the chapter and state level. Given in even numbered years, the award is a medallion and the recipient's name is placed on a plaque in the DKG room at Georgian Court University. The focus of the nomination is on personal character traits, performance of DKG activities, and commitment to the society.

This year's recipient, Michele Contala of Lambda Chapter, continues to exemplify this dedication to DKG. *"Behind many great moments in Delta Kappa Gamma is a person capturing it through the lens. She is committed, diligent and passionate about her duties. From memories at state and international conventions, to chapter meetings, she and her camera are always ready."* Those words were shared within Michele's nomination.

Michele promotes her passion every day. She captures the personal and professional sides of her chapter. Lambda enjoys laughing and reminiscing the times that unite their sisterhood. Michele continues to inspire the youth. Even upon retirement, she oversees the technology/video club at Avenel Middle School, aids in presentations of the Gifted and Talented Program, and captures the essence of the annual Veterans Convocation at various schools. At Lambda, Michele truly is the key.

Perfection doesn't come easily and sisters know there will be at least two photos taken at any given occasion to make sure all are shown in their best light. This is a tribute to Michele's diligence. She is present at all state functions to document the amazing events and camaraderie. She interacts with all the sisters of AZS and captures chapters to provide memories for the individual record books, website and newsletter. Michele is a presence to emulate as she, with her camera, is always there to make sure all events are well documented. (Cont. on page 7)

U.S. FORUM'S 2016 NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR

Carmela S. De Marco,
U.S. Forum Northeast Representative

In March, seventy-three DKG educators from twenty-three states plus the District of Columbia participated in the National Legislative Seminar. The NLS provides an opportunity to explore issues that are pertinent to women, children and education. The following issues were presented at the seminar: Bullying/Cyber-bullying, Pay Equity, Human Trafficking, Mental Health, Gun Violence Prevention and High Stakes Testing/ESSA.

We continue to monitor the implementation of ESSA regulations as well as the D.C. Voucher Renewal Act. Additionally, STEM legislation that would improve inclusion of women, minorities and people with disabilities has been introduced recently. Both the NEA and AAUW websites are good resources for updated information.

AAUW/NJ has been invited to speak about "Gender Pay Equity" on the TV Show "Another Thing" hosted by Larry Mendte. The show will air on Saturday, May 14 at 5:30 pm and Sunday, May 15 at 9:30 am.

In our endeavor to lobby for women, children and education, we continue to call, write or email our representatives concerning issues. Looking forward to seeing many of you in Nashville at the U.S. Forum meeting in July.

POST CONVENTION THOUGHTS

*Mary Jean DiRoberto, Convention Committee Chair,
Susan Davis, Hotel Liaison, and Jan Paxton, Registrar*

Once again, thanks to everyone's generous support, we had a marvelous state convention. Thank you especially to the chapter convention chairs for mobilizing your chapters and handling your responsibilities so well. Nothing seems to have fallen through the cracks despite the fact that we were a three-legged dog working on only two legs! We missed Mary Jean DiRoberto who was home sicker than that dog. Thank you also to Carol Schwartz for organizing such a wonderful program of workshops and presenters. If you have any suggestions for Carol and the Program Committee for next year's convention, please contact Carol directly (CBSrosered@gmail.com). There were 301 people registered for convention, including guests and initiates. It was a pleasure to welcome over 34 initiates in the lovely ceremony on Saturday night and to honor, not only our Rose and Key awardees, but also Michele Contala, the recipient of this year's Distinguished Service Award, at the banquet. I know we all enjoyed the presence of Sandra Smith Bull, our international representative.

Now we are looking toward the future. The 2017 AZS Convention will be held at the Doubletree in Somerset (the second year of our 2-year contract) on March 31- April 2, 2017, so plan ahead and mark your calendars because you will not want to miss it! In our efforts to make each convention better than the one before, we count on your evaluations. If you haven't filled one out yet, please go to https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1zDI-7mv8k6W_aED86ID2G-PqMO3hc50vSJhoLo5wqc/viewform?c=0&w=1 and do it now! We need 80% returns to really see the whole picture.

Finally, thank you to President Barbara Smith for helping us through all of the planning and logistics that precede a convention. This was a great start and next year will be even better!

Thanks As We Look Forward

Carol Schwartz, First Vice-President, Program of Work/Educational Excellence Committee Chair

Thank you to all of our AZS New Jersey members who completed their evaluations for the 2016 Convention workshops. All of your forms and comments were reviewed. Your responses confirmed that our 2016 AZS Convention was quite a success.

Your positive comments about the variety of programs and presentations showed your approval of the weekend workshops. The Program Planning Committee did an outstanding job when they chose these workshops in September.

A very special thank you to the presenters for sharing their time and expertise. We are proud to have had eight AZS members presenting or facilitating our workshops this year.

Our Keynote Speaker, Det. Paul Vanaman, who is currently employed by the NJ State Human Services assigned to the FBI Innocence Lost Task Force, presented a powerful and relevant PowerPoint about the plight of adolescents involved in sex trafficking.

We are in the process of planning and preparing for our 2017 Convention. Recommendation forms are posted on the AZS web page for our 2017 Convention. Some ideas for next year's convention were financial information, computer hacking, elder scams, how to protect ourselves, local history, travel ideas, exercise options, dyslexia, ADHD, healthy living, volunteer opportunities, and integrating the arts into general education. If you know of someone who can lead a workshop or presentation for any of these topics, or others, please fill out the recommendation form and email it to me by July.

The books for our 2017 Convention will be decided at our September meeting. If you have any recommendations, please give them to your Chapter Program Planning Chair by August.

Thank you once again for your support and attendance in making our 2016 Convention a meaningful experience for all.

Initiation Report

Carol Boehm, Angela Castaneda, and Amy Weinstein, State Initiation Co-Chairs

The 2016 Alpha Zeta State Initiation Ceremony welcomed 34 new Sisters on Saturday, April 9, 2016 as part of our State Convention. Rehearsal began at 8 am Saturday morning and was found to progress smoothly. Participants gathered in parlor rooms prior to the ceremony. As a new feature, the state chairs used walkie-talkies to communicate and to line participants up in the Ballroom Hall. We had the wonderful help of Sigma Chapter during initiation which helped make an easy transition to the Ballroom. The distribution of initiation pins was another new feature. Each initiate received a card with a red ribbon embossed with "Delta Kappa Gamma Initiate." It was so nice to see all the Initiates wearing them and to see our sisters welcoming them all weekend. Angela, Amy and I hope all of our Chapters will consider initiating new members at Alpha Zeta State Convention in the future. It was a memorable and uniting event! We hope to continue our formal traditions while enhancing the experience for all.

Convention 2016: Another Success!

Photos by Michele Contala, AZS photographer



Elizabeth M. Bozearth State Scholarship Awarded at AZS Convention

JoAnne Applegate, AZS Scholarship/Stipend Committee Tri-Chair

Jeanne DelColle, Eta Chapter was presented with the Elizabeth M. Bozearth State Scholarship at the AZS Convention Luncheon on April 9, 2016. Jeanne is in the process of researching and writing her dissertation to complete her PhD. in Policy, Leadership and Change in Education through Walden University.

Jeanne is currently an Instructional Development and Strategic Partnerships Specialist at Stockton University. Prior to this, Jeanne was an Educator in Residence-Educator Outreach Coordinator for the New Jersey Department of Education, and taught history at Burlington County Institute of Technology, Memorial Junior High School and Willingboro High School. Jeanne has received many awards throughout her teaching career including being named New Jersey State Teacher of the year in 2011-2012. She has been a presenter for over 40 faculty development workshops, conferences and institutes, has given keynote speeches for 34 events and has authored and co-authored many articles for publication.

Jeanne was initiated into Delta Kappa Gamma Society International in 2012. She currently serves as her chapter's Legislative Chair. She was keynote speaker at the AZS Leadership Conference in June 2012 and was a workshop presenter at our AZS State Convention in April 2013.

WILDHORSE Event to Benefit DKG Foundation

How can we support the DKG Educational Foundation this summer? By attending the fun-filled evening **Call Me Country** at the world-famous **Wildhorse Saloon** in Nashville, TN while enjoying the benefits of the 2016 DKG International Convention. The event will take place on July 7th, during the convention.

Enjoy two floors of various entertainment venues ranging from billiards to shuffle board to big screen TVs. While visiting Wildhorse, take the time to check out other famous clubs and shops in the area. Take the convenient ride home at the end of the evening.

Your ticket (\$165) includes transportation (buses run every 20 minutes between the Wildhorse Saloon and the Opryland Hotel), access to all levels and activities, entertainment (DJ, live band, line dance instruction, dance floor), dinner buffet, cash bars, and a tax deductible donation to DKGEF.

Sign-up for the evening at www.dkg.org or use the form in the DKG News. Hope to see you there!

2016 Margaret Abel Scholarship Presented to Kristyna Lynch

Faith Steinfort, AZS Scholarship/Stipend Committee Tri-Chair

A most extraordinary young woman, Kristyna Lynch was the unanimous choice of the scholarship committee. A junior at Montclair State University, Kristyna is enrolled in a rigorous, five-year, dual degree, dual certification program which will result in her attaining a B.A. and M.A.T., with certifications in Early Childhood Education and Teaching Children with Disabilities.

Beyond her outstanding 3.987 cumulative G.P.A. and 4.0 G.P.A. in her major, she's received many academic honors, among them invitations to national and campus honor societies, and numerous scholarship awards. Committed to gaining professional experience, Kristyna was chosen to receive teacher training and experience while working everyday as a high school senior with her mentor in a first grade class in her school district. She also works 20 hours a week as an assistant at the Ben Samuel Children's Center on campus and as a teaching assistant at MSU. While serving in a leadership capacity in several campus organizations, Kristyna has spearheaded many activities to benefit the community.

"Mature beyond her years," "a natural leader," "winning smile and warm personality," "her genuine love of children is remarkable" ... are but a few of the comments used repeatedly to describe Kristyna.

In Kristyna's own words "I truly enjoy and cherish each and every minute I spend with the younger students. Untied shoe laces, pony tails swaying, and toothless grins pull on my heartstrings and make me feel right at home." Kristyna, most certainly, will be a wonderful contributor to our profession.

2016 Distinguished Service Awardee Michele Contala

(Continued from page 4)

How fortunate is the AZS President to have her own paparazzi?? Very lucky! Michele Contala is compassionate and committed. Michele, on her own accord, accompanies the AZS President and executive board on Regional and International Conventions. She documents events for all state members and sends information to all who are unable to attend. Michele is certain to schedule her personal vacation time around AZS events, thus the epitome of dedication. In addition, Michele creates a personal video for each biennium. Who else spends countless hours of her personal time on her personal computer capturing moments to express how we all are fabulous??

All of AZS can emulate her wonderful spirit. Ask any sister, Michele can always make you "Smile!" Congratulations and a job well done, Michele Contala!!!!

AZ STATE CHAPTER NEWS



ALPHA CHAPTER:

Catherine Cleenput, *president*

Emily Hoeflinger completed her Doctor of Philosophy degree in American Literature: 1946 to the Present at Texas A & M University. Her concentration was in Women's and Gender Studies. Maryann Woods Murphy received her Doctor of Education degree from Walden University. Her thesis was entitled, "Perception of Highly Recognized Teachers about Approaches to Teacher Leadership." Debbie Hoeflinger will have an article published in the DKG Collegial Exchange on school dress. One of our new initiates, Megan Connolly, was once a kindergarten student of Alpha sister, Ann Calvin!

Alpha, Kappa, Theta, Tau and Epsilon celebrated another Combined Northern Chapters Meeting on Saturday, March 19th at Calandra's in Fairfield. We were pleased that 50 sisters were able to gather to share a meal and learn from our fellow sisters. Barbara Henderson from Epsilon served as Master of Ceremonies. Several of our sisters presented a program on the Holocaust and bullying. Lisa Hirkaler-Murphy (Epsilon) began our program with an inspirational song on how teaching is in our core, a fact that should be celebrated and nurtured. Coleen Tambuscio (Kappa) shared the amazing program she developed on teaching all students about the Holocaust. Her work has touched lives, created legacies and taught students social responsibility. Michele Klamerus (Theta) shared valuable insights into the NJ bullying laws and how to successfully help students to be proactive, not reactive.



BETA CHAPTER:

Kelly Johnson, *president*

Eleven Beta sisters attended the DKG convention proudly welcoming our new initiates. Vicki Glasso has been working as a pre-school teacher in the Salem City School District for the past fourteen years. She is following a legacy of educational excellence as both her father and mother were prominent Salem County teachers. Vicki is the daughter of one of our most committed Beta leaders, Luella Vengenock. Chelsea Collins, a sixth grade Language Arts teacher at Woodstown Middle School, is currently serving as the 2015-2016 New Jersey teacher of the year. Chelsea graduated with distinction from Penn State University in 2008 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Advertising and Public Relations and minors in English, Business, and International Studies. She returned to The College of New Jersey to pursue her Master of Arts in Teaching, where she was honored with the Graduate Student Researcher Award in 2011. We look forward to having these women participate in our chapter's meetings, charity activities, and leadership opportunities for many years to come.

Beta sisters are also proudly acknowledging the one hundredth birthday of our sister Dr. Ethel Alicia Miller Adams. "Oppie", as she is affectionately called, has been a Beta sister for 38 years. Although she now lives in North Carolina, her commitment to DKG is strong. We appreciate her contributions to the field of education and wish her many happy returns.



GAMMA CHAPTER:

Saula Cutter, *president*

This year Gamma's chapter programs have varied from game night at a local winery to cultural education at the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir where well over half of our membership were in attendance. We continue to support Schools for Africa, Books for Babies and our men and women serving in our military. Gamma sisters extended service to include RISE, Meals On Wheels, a local animal shelter, students in *Misión Tú Puedes* and of course, to attend the AZS Convention.

Gamma sisters always talk about how much they take away from the AZS convention. Like other chapters we initiate new members, complete our assigned duties, attend workshops and participate in the business of the Society. Friday evening, we meet for dinner before the opening session. We gather together before the initiation ceremony to support our soon to be sisters. After initiation and dinner, we top off the evening by celebrating our newest sisters with a pajama party. Chapter president Saula Cutter wonders if Dr. Annie Webb Blanton could possibly have imagined the opportunities for friendship, sisterhood and networking her bold initiative would offer all of us. Alpha Zeta State is truly fundamental to the ties that bind us together. As Saula's presidential tenure comes to a close, the chapter marked that passing of the gavel with the installation of new officers. Gamma has an energetic and enthusiastic new leadership team that will move the chapter forward in exciting ways!



DELTA CHAPTER:

Karen Cohen, *president*

After holding our Initiates' Tea, we looked forward in welcoming Victoria France, Kimberlee Moore, Joy Silver-Carty, Amanda Unkle and Sue Rementer to our chapter. We presented the American Cancer Society with a check in the amount of \$3,000.00 as the result of our "Beat the Clock against Breast Cancer" race.

In March, we welcomed AZS State President Barbara Smith to our meeting as well as two outstanding visiting educators, Janet Baxter and Leanne Scheff. The Sunset Lounge, Cape May Ferry, North Cape May provided a beautiful venue overlooking the bay for this meeting which focused on the topics of the AZS convention and wellness on the water. Led by our lovely sister and certified yoga instructor, Jennifer Giorgio-Blum, we enjoyed stretching our bodies, increasing our flexibility and balance and having so much fun while engaging in yoga postures combined with diaphragmatic breathing! We collected monetary contributions for our Convention baskets that were themed "Health and Wellness for All."

Throughout the year, we support CARA with contributions such as toiletries, cash, and gift cards. Our Literacy Committee/Project "Read to Me" works diligently to reach out beyond our local hospitals and into other areas such as pediatricians' offices to provide new parents with books (English or Spanish) to read to their children. Another project, Kid's Comfort-Habitat for Humanity, helps to furnish a child's room; the dedication of a new home was presented in March.

(Continued on page 9)

AZS CHAPTER NEWS

Continued from previous page.

Sisters Karen Cohen and Terry Morris attended our state convention this year with Terry the lucky winner of a basket. As a benefit of working with Xi, our closest chapter, during convention registration, we are planning a get-together in the near future with both chapters.

Gratitude has been the underlying theme throughout our president's biennium. As she reflected back over the past two years, Karen Cohen appreciated the fact of how all the Delta sisters have grown and continue to grow in the chapter as well as in their commitment to DKG. The sisters have played a key role in continuing the legacy of making the chapter vital and strong. Karen is thankful for her opportunity and privilege to have served as Delta president this past biennium.



EPSILON CHAPTER:

Pam Raynor, *president*

The sisters of Epsilon have once again, gone above and beyond to cheer up our Past President, Linda Adams, who is recovering from lung cancer. Sister Pat Steege suggested we make Linda a "Get Better Basket" which would hold gifts that Linda would unwrap once a day. Just like taking a vitamin, Linda would open a new "treasure" each day. The gifts were purchased with the hopes that it would make her smile and laugh, and look forward to each day. The response to our call for gifts for Linda was so overwhelming that it was suggested that we work on a June basket, as well. The gift bag was delivered on Saturday April 30th, so that on Sunday May 1st Linda would start opening presents. Gifts included activities to keep Linda busy as well as specialty snacks to munch on while resting. Can't tell you anymore or it will spoil the daily surprises.

Our social committee is busy planning a few events for the summer months. We will try a boat ride on Lake Hopatcong, a picnic at Swartswood State Park, a golf outing for our golfers, and an indoor activity time with games and cards.



ETA CHAPTER:

Victoria Warner, *president*

Sister Anne Wood was named Burlington Township Teacher of the Year at Burlington Township High School (BTHS). An educator for 26 years, Anne has worked in Burlington Township since 2006 as a special education teacher of Algebra 1 in an inclusion classroom. This past year, she once again coordinated Project Freshman F.I.R.S.T., Freshman Integrating Resources and Service Learning Together. On April 15, 2016, 450 students and staff at BTHS came together to perform close to 1500 hours of community service. Service projects were completed at 19 different locations around Burlington County. Students selected their assignment by choosing locations that varied from clean-ups at local parks and churches to socializing with seniors at nursing homes. Some students opted to clean emergency equipment at fire houses and emergency squads while others read to preschoolers or put up bulletin boards for elementary teachers. A group of 120 students packaged 32,500 meals for the Stop Hunger Now program. Anne said, "This program offers our students the opportunity to give back to their com-

munity while developing a sense of pride and accomplishments outside of the classroom. By introducing the idea of community service to the students in their freshman year, we are establishing a groundwork for future opportunities for them to provide service to others. All of these activities are designed to provide the students an opportunity to instill in themselves the importance of civic responsibility."

Sister Jeanne DelColle was awarded the Elizabeth M. Bozearth State Scholarship at the AZS convention on April 9, 2016. Jeanne is working on her Ph.D. at Walden University with a concentration in Leadership, Policy and Change in Education. Her study will focus on the growth of the mentor teacher in a co-teaching model of student teaching. Congratulations, Jeanne, from all of your ETA sisters!

Tracey Holland, a special education teacher in Willingboro, is another scholarship recipient from ETA Chapter. The teacher training scholarship covers the cost of 12 graduate credit hours for the Fairleigh Dickinson University's Orton Gillingham Program. Fairleigh Dickinson University has joined forces with the Children's Dyslexia Centers to provide a teacher training program in the Orton Gillingham approach for the instruction of struggling readers including those with dyslexia.

Once again ETA Chapter has participated in the Dress A Girl Around the World Project. Sisters spent an entire day together measuring, cutting, ironing, and sewing sundresses. These will be distributed to young girls from third-world countries. These girls are at a greater risk for human trafficking. We plan on completing approximately 50 sundresses this year for a very worthwhile cause that is also a fun gathering of ETA sisters.



THETA CHAPTER

Joyce Breitwieser, *president*

Theta Chapter would like to congratulate two of its members for a job well done. Patty Sayre received notification that she won a full scholarship to the Colonial Williamsburg Teacher's Institute for this summer. It is a one week course that covers all that she teaches. Joanne Berta was inducted into the NJDECA hall of fame. Great work, ladies! Theta is very proud of your accomplishments.



LAMBDA CHAPTER:

Annabelle Boehm, *president*

Lambda chapter was honored at Convention this year in more ways than one. Our President Annabelle Boehm made her triumphant return as she processed down the aisle at both the lunch and dinner events. She has been on a long road to recovery and we were overjoyed at her appearance at convention. As the awards dinner was coming to a close the announcement of the dedicated service award made us jump from our seats! Our very own Michele Contala, photographer in chief, received this prestigious award and we couldn't be more proud. Here are a few words from the honored recipient.

"It is a privilege to be able to photograph the moments we'll hold dear to our hearts for years to come. Your good nature provides the perfect opportunity for the extra photos....just one more is never refused, nor is moving 6 inches to the left. It's the extra photos that go into the record

(Continued on page 10)

AZS CHAPTER NEWS

Continued from previous page.

books and our state president's biennium movie. Thank you! I am truly touched and honored to have received the Dedicated Service Award, to be recognized by my peers, and most importantly to be a part of Lambda. You are the wind beneath my wings. I soar with you as my sisters."

Lambda sister and Red Bank Borough Education Association President Carol Boehm attended both the Senate Budget Committee hearing and the Assembly Budget Committee hearing to listen to Commissioner Hespe address the State Education Budget for next year. Both hearings were an opportunity for the legislators to ask direct questions about the state of education in NJ and also specific questions about the funding of our schools. Representing Red Bank Borough as Association President and along with 6 other underfunded districts, we made our presence known with 60 plus parents and board members packing each room. Senator Jennifer Beck has been a huge help in shedding light on the under-funding of schools problem that plagues so many districts in our State, and we will continue to support her efforts to fairly fund the school funding formula.



MU CHAPTER:

Dr. Kathy Froriep, *president*

Mu members Lili Bruess and Kathy Froriep attended a full day ELL Teacher Preparation Summit presented by the NJ Department of Education in April. Anyone interested in professional development opportunities and resources related to teaching ELLs can learn more at <http://www.state.nj.us/education/bilingual/pd/> - you do not need to be an ESL or bilingual teacher to use the materials and attend the sessions. Lili and Kathy also attended full day training sessions related to edTPA, the new performance assessment New Jersey has adopted and required teacher candidates seeking initial teacher certification beginning to pass, beginning in Fall 2017 (<http://www.nj.gov/education/educators/rpr/preparation/>).

The Reading Center at Georgian Court University donated boxes of books to the Sisters Academy of New Jersey, a 5th-8th grade school for girls in Asbury Park. Mu members Puddy Flynn and Kathy Froriep worked together to complete this initiative. The Sisters Academy, <http://sistersacademynj.org/>, and Georgian Court University, www.georgian.edu, are both sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, <http://www.sistersofmercy.org/>, who are strong advocates for social justice. Puddy has been volunteering in the Sisters Academy since her retirement from full time teaching last year. As the Academy's website explains this school "...focuses on educating girls from economically challenged families in order to provide them with the tools necessary to gain access into and success in private high schools and universities."

Lillie Hendry, Mu charter member, continues her leadership role at the Court Street School, which currently offers community programs in Freehold, NJ. Their centennial celebration this year was a terrific success. To see an article from the Asbury Park Press about this historic school and 15 second video, with Lillie in a starring role, go to <http://www.nj.gov/education/educators/rpr/preparation/>.



OMICRON CHAPTER:

Gail Starr, *president*

Congratulations to Patty Naples, George J. Mitchell School's 2016 Teacher of the Year. Patty teaches science to sixth grade students in the Little Egg Harbor School District. In addition to being an outstanding science teacher, she has led a team of students to win the e-Cybermission contest for their *Sun Sensors* project.

Maria Puorro, beloved teacher in the Barnegat Township School District, is retiring on June 30, 2016 after 38 years of dedicated service. During her tenure in the district, she has taught second, third, and fifth grades until her most recent position as Basic Skills teacher. Maria has also served on numerous district-wide and school committees, providing valuable input to aid in the decision making process. She has been a long-time advisor to the Safety Patrol, Administrator in Charge when the principal was not present, as well as the After-School Activities Coordinator. We wish Maria much love, luck, and happiness in her retirement!

The SEE Committee, under the direction of Rosalind Ribaud, has provided new teachers in surrounding districts with a Visa gift card in order to provide needed supplies for their students/programs. As a result, new teachers received Omicron's support and have learned about the chapter's goals and mission. Some teachers even attended a recent chapter meeting. It was a pleasure meeting these dedicated and enthusiastic young women who are new to our profession and who admire our efforts. Omicron will continue providing the needed support to new teachers and will encourage their participation in DKG.

Congratulations to Tracy Simoncini, a Basic Skills teacher in the Little Egg Harbor School District, who recently completed the two year Orton Gillingham Certification program through Farleigh Dickinson University.

Maureen Tyrrell, certified school nurse at the Lillian M. Dunfee Elementary School, organized *The Little Smiles* dental program to provide routine dental care to students while the students are in school, effectively reducing the amount of missed school time. Dental cleanings, sealants, fluoride, and X-rays are all part of the provided service. The children receive toothbrushes and a small pamphlet with helpful home care tips. This year, due to an increased response to the program, four school visits were arranged, with a total of 121 students receiving in school dental care from the mobile team.



PI CHAPTER

Robin Atkins, *president*

Pi Chapter again supported the Crayola Project. To date 1,000+ crayons have been collected and shipped.

Susan Clark, Pi sister and President of the Gloucester County Education Association, continues to provide timely legislative updates to our chapter from DKG, the Trenton State House and NJEA.

At the March general meeting/potluck supper, Pi Chapter elected new officers: president, Kathy Albertson; 1st vice president, Debbie Kain; 2nd vice president, Terry Boyajian; recording secretary, Catherine Kelly; corresponding secretary, Barbara Priggemeir; treasurer, Diane Camiolo; and nominations chairperson, Doris Eith. Our speaker at this

(Continued on page 11)

AZS CHAPTER NEWS

Continued from previous page.

meeting, Nancy Underwood, home organization and staging professional, presented ideas and suggestions for decluttering our homes, lives, offices, etc. in her presentation "Organization 101".

The book club has been very active! January saw the group read Gloria Steinem's first book in 20 twenty years, My Life on the Road. Ms. Steinem gave a candid account of the events that led to her travels. The Story of a Beautiful Girl by Rachel Simon gave Pi sisters much to discuss. It was a story about an extraordinary love and overcoming insurmountable obstacles. The club's next selection is Lisa Scottoline's latest novel, Most Wanted. What would you do if your unborn baby's biological father was a killer?

Pi Chapter collected travel size toiletries to help Theta Chapter's project. The collected items will be donated to Women Rising, a shelter for women and children of domestic violence.

In April, Pi Chapter helped to sponsor Clearview Middle School's Women's History Museum. The theme this year was "Never Underestimate the Power of a Girl". The museum depicted the story of power and change for girls everywhere. The exhibits were live, creative, well thought out and transformational. Several Pi sisters participated in the video showing the various roles of girls/women.



RHO CHAPTER:

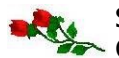
Dr. Margaret Niemiec, *president*

Sister Bev Andresen was featured in an article entitled "Sparkling Big Ideas at this Small N.J. School", published in early April on NJ.com, the Hunterdon County Democrat's and NJ DOE's weekly broadcast. In her year-long program with retired English professor, Dr. Tim McCracken, and fellow teacher Bob St. Laurent, students are guided through the writing process. The program, with 19 second and third grade student participants, will culminate with the sharing of stories and illustrations in June, just in time for Father's Day.

Rho Chapter celebrated its 30th anniversary on April 19 with festivities to occur at its annual June "picnic" meeting. President Barb Smith will be on hand as well as four founding members who still continue as members: Susan Grassi, Joan Johnson, Betty Scandrol, and Agnes Szwec.

At the June meeting, our sisters will make "no sew" fleece blankets for our charity, The Center for Great Expectations. During the course of the year, we have made monetary and requested item donations to CGE.

Rho Chapter was delighted to have all seven of its 2016 initiates attend the Convention in April. We are excited to have these vibrant young women join our chapter, AZS and DKG.



SIGMA CHAPTER:

Charlotte Orfe, *president*

Sigma members have many talents but two Sigma members stand out with their artistic talents. Vickie Mathas and Sky McClain have much in common, starting with being roommates at what was known at Glassboro State College, majoring in Art Education. They both were art teachers for 32

years. Vickie joined Sigma in 1996 and invited Sky to join in 2004. Both have served in many leadership roles as well as always volunteering for the many needs of Sigma.

Vickie is now a full-time Fiber Art studio artist. She works in a mixed media approach to her fiber/art quilts. Her techniques include pounded botanical impressions, thread drawn figure topography, invented complex collaged cloth, unique one of a kind fiber art pins and various needle arts combined with quilting, metal, clay, and digital textiles. She has been interviewed live on Art C (radio station program in South Jersey). She is published in two books by Mary Kerr and two magazines as part of the winners' circle of fiber/quilt contests. The book, "Dare to Dance" features two of her Figure Topography works and one art quilt was chosen to be a part of a traveling exhibit for two years covering 28 quilt show venues across the USA. Vickie's pounded and painted botanical impressions are featured with her writing describing her fiber artwork in "Cutting Edge Art Quilts", a publication showcasing 51 artists and their quilting techniques. Vickie and her digital photographer husband, Paul, had a "Duets" show at the Riverfront Renaissance Art Center, Millville, NJ. This year Vickie was asked to help curate a fiber art exhibit, "Threaded Expressions" at the RRCA. She enjoyed mentoring two new fiber artists in their first gallery experience. She participated in the Associate Artists exhibition at the RRCA and won honorable mention for her botanical impression piece, "Cascading Morning Glories". Vickie won second place for her newest work, "Roots", at the Markeim Art Center in Haddonfield, NJ. This piece combined her art quilting with felting and her invented complex collaged cloth. Vickie shows and sells her work in art galleries and centers in New Jersey and Maryland. She is a member of the Quilt and Fiber Arts Professional Network, serving as their treasurer. Through this networking organization Vickie contracts with quilt guilds and art groups to lecture and lead workshops.

Sky is a studio artist choosing pen and ink, colored pencil, collage, printmaking and watercolor. She draws inspiration from nature, especially animals, plants and shells. Since January 2016 Sky has been busy creating art and getting it seen. Sky's home, studio and work were featured in the Burlington County Times. She exhibited a photograph at the Markeim Arts Center and artwork at the Burlington County Art Guild Spring Members Show. Sky illustrated a cookbook for the 1st Presbyterian Church in Moorestown. She and her daughter illustrated "Bella Figlia Della Mamma" featuring their full page original watercolors. Sky, along with the author of the book, gave a presentation at the AZS 2016 Convention and gave a book talk at the Moorestown Library. Her work is exhibited at the Perkins Art Center in Moorestown and she has also recently sold a commissioned multi-portrait. Sky has won numerous awards in juried art shows and has had two articles published in "Arts and Activities" magazine. She continues to improve her talents by constantly continuing her education in art through taking various courses. She also teaches private and small group art classes.

Both Sky and Vickie have displayed their work at the AZS Convention, collaborated to create Sigma's banner, have donated their work for convention and chapter prizes and have held summer art workshops for Sigma. Vickie and Sky are valuable assets to Sigma and we are very privilege to have them as members.

AZS Sisters' Works Recognized by DKG

AZS was informed that three of our sisters' works were chosen to be displayed for the May DKG Galley of Fine Arts. The gallery will include Judy Merz's two poetry pieces, *Founder Redux* and *Measures*; Jan Wilson's three digital paintings, *Warmth*, *Opportunity*, and *Paris en Hiver*; and Patricia Pemberton's textile art, *Rag Woven Wall Hanging*.

In addition, three sisters will have articles published in the 2016, Vol.82-4 of "The DKG Collegial Exchange". This issue will include Claire Swanson's column, "*Professional Learning-Just a Few Keystrokes*"; Debra Hoeflinger's article, "*When Teachers Become the Fashion Police: The Battle over School Dress*"; and Dr. Wendy Crawford's article, "*Tie that Bind: Crafting a Conference for Kindred Spirits*".

Congratulations to our sisters for your accomplishments! We are proud of you!

Dates and Deadlines

June 2016:

1 - Registration of 2016 - 2018 chapter officers due to Barb Smith/DKG

11 - AZS Chapter Officer Leadership Training, Hamilton, NJ

July 2016:

5 - 9 - DKG 2016 International Convention, Nashville, TN

September 2016:

1 - Application deadline for AZS Professional Growth Stipends (first round)

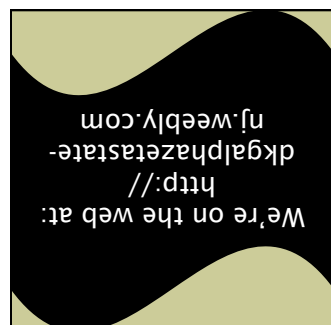
10 - AZ state meeting

30 - Final date for submission of nominations for 2017 - 2019 state officers

December 2016:

15 - Application deadline for AZS Professional Growth Stipends (second round)

15 - Application deadline for the Elizabeth Bozearth Scholarship and Margaret Abel Scholarship Awards



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