

ALPHA DELTA NEWS

Alpha Delta Chapter
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Rockingham/Caswell Counties
ETA STATE/REGION VII

Volume 60, Issue 1

October, 2013



From the President

Debbie Russell

Together, We Are Stronger - Committing, Collaborating, Celebrating!"

Dear Alpha Delta Sisters,

Several recent studies about happiness reveal that all of us need other people in order to be healthy. Close positive relationships are crucial to our well-being. Our new Eta State President Patricia Taylor echoes these findings in her messages and plans for the biennium. One of the key elements of President Taylor's theme for the biennium is "Celebrating!" I am sure you agree that keeping that positive outlook is essential to being a good teacher and to making a contribution no matter what work we engage in. I celebrate the fact that I have made so many good friends through Delta Kappa Gamma. We have members from a very large geographical area—throughout Rockingham and Caswell counties and some from nearby areas who teach locally. I am almost certain that I would never have met some of the wonderful women who have become my colleagues and friends if it had not been through DKG.

Continued page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the President	1-2
October Meeting	
Welcome	3
International News	4
Eta State News	5
Work Progresses on State Education Foundation/The Delta Kappa Gamma Education Foundation	6
Alpha Delta Members	
Making a Difference	7
Alpha Delta Book Corner/ Professional/Personal News/Birthdays	8
Summer Book Club	9
A Special Report from Eta State Educational Law and Policy Committee	10
May Minutes/Pictures	11-12



President's Column - continued

One of our members, Vanessa Richmond-Graves, regularly sends positive e-mail messages that I really appreciate. Her most recent is "Life is too short to be anything but happy. Falling down is a part of life, getting back up is living." Reminders such as these help us remember to celebrate each day.

One way our President Taylor is promoting the well-being of Eta State members is through a project named "Mentoring Members (M&Ms)." To involve our chapter and nurture those human connections that make us all a little happier, I am asking that each of our members **choose at least one other member to mentor for the coming year.** Actively seek to understand the needs of our fellow members. Then, just do a kindness every now or then. Perhaps make a note of it somewhere-- on a calendar, in a journal. You can choose whether to tell your sister members. Ideally all of us will be both givers and receivers of kind acts in the coming weeks.

May you all feel the caring of your friends in Alpha Delta and find their support a help in your personal and professional lives.

Debbie

Debbie Russell - President
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Debbie singing in choir (pink and gray) at the Eta State Convention.



October Meeting

The October meeting of the Alpha Delta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International will be at Prospect United Methodist Church in Yanceyville, NC on Friday, October 4, 2013. The church is located at 1900 US Highway 158 W. in Caswell County. Bonnie Brewer and Pam Page attend Prospect United Methodist Church and they hosted our meeting two years ago.

Menu

Pork loin w/ cherry and apple
compote
Tossed salad
Roasted vegetables
Garlic creamed potatoes
Cornmeal muffins
Chocolate layer cake
Blackberry cobbler
Coffee, tea, or water

Hostesses

Susan Lassiter, Chair
Evangelina Balmouri
Martha Davis
Mary Hux
Cindy Sarwi

Times of Interest for October Meeting

5:45 p.m.
Executive Board Meeting
6:00 p.m.
Social Hour
6:30 p.m.
Initiation
7:00
Dinner

Directions to Prospect United Methodist Church

The church is located on Highway 158 East for those coming from Rockingham County. It is on your left (a red brick church with a sanctuary and fellowship hall equal in size, side by side) just before you come into Yanceyville. It sits back from the highway and has a sign with Prospect UMC on it. It is approximately 18 miles from Highway 29 at Reidsville (at the crossover on 158).

Please send your dues for the 2013-2014 chapter year to:

Rachel Scott
180 Canterbury Road
Reidsville, NC 27320
or
bring to the October meeting

Active - \$71 Reserve \$27

Welcome

We welcome our newest Alpha Delta sisters who will be initiated tonight. They are **Lynne Haynes** an assistant professor of Physical Education at Rockingham Community College and **Angela Southard** a teacher at Dillard Elementary in Madison.

We also extend a warm welcome to **Dr. Angela Kern** who is a guest tonight.



International News - www.dkg.org

Become acquainted with the new website

DKG is entering into a new era in website features and capabilities. As a registered user, members have

an account that provides access to the commenting sections on the website and the DKG social network.

The social network has been updated and refreshed. Groups within the former social network that were

active over the past six months have been rebuilt in the new network. Once logged in, members can

create any number of groups. Groups can be set up with different permissions including 1) open to any

Plug-in for the News!!

DKG is on Facebook? You can be, too! Find out what is happening in DKG in other states and countries. Follow the issues and initiatives on behalf of women, children, and education. Check out the following DKG Facebook pages:

*International Organization

*U.S. Forum

*Educational Foundation

In order to participate in Facebook, you must have a Facebook account. Visit www.facebook.com and follow the directions to set up your own account. When the signup form is complete, Facebook will send you an email. Click the confirmation link in the email to complete the signup process.

Now you will be able to view the International, U.S. Forum and DKGEF Facebook pages and post comments.

Eta State News - www.deltakappagamma.org/NC/

A Message from Our President Patricia Taylor, 2013-2015

*This biennium, there will be three ships sailing in Eta State. The first ship is "The Eta State **Membership**." The destination will be to **commit** to continue to support beginning teachers and to remember teachers needing our support due to loss of assistants or placement in new curriculum areas. This ship's theme (Eta State's 2013-2015 state project) is "**Mentoring Members (M&Ms)**." A suggestion in supporting this theme is to form a "Mentoring Members" team in your chapter to assess the needs and skills of beginning teachers, chapter members, and other women educators needing assistance and offer volunteer time, tutoring, and/or caring notes. Another suggestion is to offer childcare for chapter members and potential members to allow them to attend meetings. You may find teenagers for this service by collaborating with churches in your community or high schools offering teens credit for community service. Don't forget to voice your own needs! You may want to plan chapter programs that highlight the skills and/or generational diversity of chapter members. Send me your digital pictures of activities showing chapter members in action as they "mentor members." The pictures will be shown on a screen during the 2014 Eta State Convention in Greenville, NC. At the Eta State Executive Board meeting on September 14, 2013 at Elon, the ship's crew, the Eta State Membership Committee, will be presenting more ideas for promoting membership.*



*The second ship is "The Eta State **Leadership**." This ship will **collaborate** with the other ships to accomplish the goal of developing courageous, committed leaders to serve and lead. It is this ship that will move passengers forward to the highest levels of personal potential and professional courage. Chapters may want to consider offering leadership seminars and activities, ideas for professional development, scholarships, and other ideas and tips for special projects that will promote present and future leaders. The crews leading this effort are "The Eta State Leadership Development Committee" and "The Eta State Scholarship Committee." Watch for inspirational news, information, and/or tips in the Eta Data and the Eta State News.*

*The name of the third ship is "The Eta State **Genuine Spiritual Fellowship**." Every Eta State chapter member at one time or another will navigate this particular ship. Some suggestions are to offer to prepare a meal when a chapter member's family is involved in adult care taking, preparing some meals for women educators that are facing school challenges, writing notes of support, congratulations, thinking of you, etc., providing support by making phone calls to chapter members and women educators, **celebrating** a chapter accomplishment, celebrating an Eta State accomplishment such as an 80th birthday party for Eta State, and/or taking field trips outside of chapter meetings to provide additional time for fellowship among chapter members.*

*Together, We Are Stronger -
Committing, Collaborating, Celebrating!"*

Work Progresses on State Educational Foundation

With a sense of accomplishment, it is satisfying to update Eta State members on the progress of the ad hoc committee. We worked throughout the summer in an effort to move forward in the process of establishment.

We met with the newly elected officers in a collaboration that will benefit our organization, and reviewed and edited the documents that will be submitted to both state and federal agencies for approval.

We also received invitations from several chapters to visit and present pertinent points relevant to the process and respond to questions. We are grateful for these invitations. If your chapter desires such a visit, please contact Dr. Judith B. Carlson (judithb125@gmail.com) or Maxine McCall (djmcm60@hci.net).

We are engaged in good work. A most positive 'esprit de corps' and sense of passion prevail as we are actively pursuing the goal: to proceed with the process of establishing an educational foundation that will enhance the work of Eta State. Together we can do it!



The Delta Kappa Gamma Education Foundation

By: Linda Little, Foundation Liaison

Effective the end of August, 150 individual chapters, state organizations, regions, memorial and honor candles have been placed on our 50th anniversary birthday cake, totaling \$7500. A \$50 donation adds another candle. For more information about the Foundation, go to www.dkgef.org listed as "Educational Foundation FAQ" in the *Resources* section of our international webpage.

North Carolina has had many grant recipients for professional development opportunities and/or innovative ideas for classrooms. Eta State received a Cornet Award to assist with our Leadership Seminar this past summer. Upcoming deadlines include **November 1, 2013** for Professional Development. Seminar applications and **November 15, 2013** for 50th Anniversary Award applications. The DKG Educational Foundation *is committed to furthering educational potential worldwide*



U.S. Forum Connection

This publication is intended for your information about issues important to education, women and children. This free newsletter is sponsored by the United States Forum of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. Members wishing to subscribe to this *free* newsletter should send a request to Bedenbaugh.Angela@gmail.com.

Examples of information included in the August issue are reports on the Violence Against Women Act and Government Teacher Resources.

Convention Dates

April 25 - 27, 2014 — Eta State Convention, Greenville Hilton, Greenville, NC

July 28 - August 1, 2014 — International Convention, JW Marriott, Indianapolis, IN

April 24 - 26, 2015 — Eta State Convention, Chapel Hill Sheraton, Chapel Hill, NC

Alpha Delta Members Making a Difference

Region VII DKG Blood Drive

Five DKG chapters from Region VII co-sponsored a blood drive with the Carolinas Regional Blood Services Board of Directors on June 14, at the Apostolic Catholic Church, Greensboro, NC. Dr. Angela Kern, Regional Director, reported that members from five chapters served as hostesses, interacting with the donors and/or providing canteen supplies, including home-baked items, drinks, and snacks.

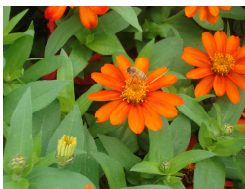
“The Carolinas Board members who were present were very, very impressed with the special commitment all of our sisters brought to this endeavor,” reported Board Chairman, Dr. Judith Carlson. One gentleman stated that teachers, “even though they are laid off for the summer, do not forget their mission to be of service.” The regional event advanced the public face of the society and united chapters together for a community outreach.



Front row: (left to right): **Debbie Russell (Alpha Delta)**, Mary Ann Waterstradt (Alpha), Myrtle Solomon (Beta Gamma), **Rachel Scott (AD)**,
Back Row (left to right): Shelia Groves (Beta Delta), **Carol Holcomb (AD)**, [Sylvia Eaglin (Chi)], Dr. Judith Carlson (Alpha Gamma), Chairman of the Carolinas Blood Services Board of Directors, **Jake Scott (Rachel's grandson)**, Elaine McRae (Beta Delta).

Alpha Delta Book Corner

Rachel Scott: Son of Stone--Stuart Woods, When Day Breaks--Mary Jane Clark, Love in a Nutshell--Janet Evanovich, Miracle Cure--Harlan Coben, Dog On It--Spencer Quinn and Sweetgrass--Mary Alice Monroe....Carolyn Lester: The Last Original Wife - Dorothea Benton Frank....**Donna Rawlins:** The Husband's Secret - Liane Moriarty, The Midwife of Hope River: A Novel of an American Midwife- Patricia Harman, The Magician's Assistant - Ann Patchett,, The False Prophet: Conspiracy, Extortion and Murder in the Name of God - Claire Booth and Hum and Shiver - Alex Bledsoe.



Keep
BUZZING
About DKG

Personal and Professional News

Evangelina Balmori shares this news, "I drove to Los Angeles on highway 40 and returned on highway 10. It took me six weeks and I drove by myself. I drove 9,000 miles. I visited The Grand Ole Opry, The Hermitage, Graceland, The Clinton Library, Santa Fe, Flagstaff, The Grand Canyon, Disneyland, The Nixon Library, The Reagan Library, Palms Springs, Phoenix, Tucson, San Antonio, The George Bush Library, Lafayette, New Orleans, Miami and The Florida Keys. It was a great journey. It was a late 60th birthday to myself."....**Rachel Scott** is the proud grandmother of Vaden Wesley Scott who was born May 14....**Carolyn Lester** spent the last week of August touring London and Paris. Highlights of her trip were a visit to Buckingham Palace to see the exhibit in honor of the 60th anniversary of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth and a complete day spent at the Louvre....**Mary Hux** took a trip out west this summer with family and friends. They flew to Salt Lake city, Utah and joined a group of 52 on a "Wild West, Cowboys, and Buffaloes" tour. The tour included visits to Jackson Hole, Yellowstone National Park, the Grand Teton, the U Cross Dude Ranch, a night visit to Mount Rushmore, the Buffalo Bill Museum in Cody, SD, Fort Laramie and the US Mint in Denver. Highlights for Mary were a thirty minute horseback ride at the U Cross Dude Ranch and a 20 mile float down the Snake River, with the Grand Teton in the foreground. Along with the beautiful surroundings, they saw bald eagles, beavers, bears, and moose.**Martha Davis** sends notice that our 2013 Scholarship recipient, Samantha Elkins, was awarded the Aubry Lee Brooks Scholarship to UNC. "She and I are still celebrating."...**Debbie Russell's** son, Cameron, an attorney in NYC has recently been appointed Executive Director of the Center for Law and Information Policy (CLIP) at Fordham University. He completed his masters in law at Fordham, graduating first in his program -- Intellectual Property.

Birthdays

October

Beth Blaney - 2
Susan Lassiter - 13
Rachel Scott - 15
Sandra Dickens - 29

November

Carolyn Boswell - 4
Evangelina Balmori - 16
Melissa Bailey - 19
Barbara Smith - 28

December

Kay Diehl - 6
Jeryl Rice - 7
Jane Lockhart - 17
Brenda Atkins - 21
Karen Wakelee - 28



Members Engage in Personal Growth Activity

Carol Holcomb

The annual summer book club met at the home of Susan Thompson on July 17. Karen Wakelee led the discussion on the book The Light Between Oceans by M. L. Stedman. This selection is Stedman's first book, and the novel generated lively and thought provoking dialogue among the participants.

Set in Australia in the 1920's, the main characters are lighthouse keepers and are isolated from the mainland. After some major disappointments in their lives, the couple find themselves faced with a dilemma. The husband and wife have different views but because of their choice a tangled web begins. The book is woven with many triangles of relationships.

Discussion leader Karen challenged the participants with many thought provoking questions. Former English teacher, Kay Diehl, with her keen ability to see the deeper

meaning through symbolism added much to the discussion. Member Susan Thompson referenced the strength of the triangle, and historians Debbie Russell and Jeryl Rice offered significant background information about the time period. Ultimately, the group asked themselves "What would we do in a similar situation?" and "Was the choice they made morally right?" Those in attendance agreed there were no winners in this story. Yet, the book is an excellent read with many lessons about life and difficult situations.

The summer book club is sponsored by the Leadership Development Committee as a personal growth activity. Chapter members are asked to refer books they read throughout the year to the committee for possible selection for the 2014 choice.



Susan



Sandra and Susan



Karen



l-r Karen, Sandra, Rachel, Kay, Carolyn, Carol, Jeryl, and Susan.



Karen, Carol, Carolyn, Susan and Jeryl

A Special Report from the Eta State Educational Law and Policy Committee

Assembled by Dr. Elaine Jenkins, Chair and Lynn Ragsdale

Note: The first five topics were identified at the 2012 Eta State convention as focus issues for Eta State. The issues that follow may not be of equal importance to all members.

1. Teacher Tenure – To be phased out for all K-12 teachers in 2018. The state would move to a contract system, with teachers getting one- to four-year contracts, depending on their proficiency. The plan also steps toward merit pay, with \$10.2 million in the second year (2014-15) to give the best teachers bonuses.

2. Teaching Fellows - Continues the phase-out of the North Carolina Teaching Fellows program, which annually selected 500 promising high school seniors to receive four-year scholarships allowing them to graduate with little or no college debt in return for working in public schools for four years after graduation.

3. Private School Vouchers – Provides \$10 million for the first year and \$50 million in FY2015 for private school vouchers, known as Opportunity Scholarships. Students who meet a defined income threshold and other selected eligibility criteria may qualify for up to \$4,200 per year in taxpayer funding to pay for private tuition.

4. Pre-Kindergarten - Shifts \$12.4 million from lottery receipts to add 2,500 North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten Program slots. That raises the total available slots to 27,500.

5. School Resource Officers – Provides \$7 million in elementary and middle schools and \$18.6 million to implement the Excellent Public Schools Act, which includes initiatives aimed to have all students reading at grade level by the end of third grade.

Teacher-to-student ratios – To be increased to determine total funding allocated for classroom teachers. The Department of Public Instruction estimates this ratio change will result in a loss of 5,200 teachers.

Teach for America - Spends \$6 million in each of the next two years to expand Teach for America, the national corps of recent college graduates who commit to teaching for two years in public schools after a five-week summer training course.

Teacher Assistants - Funding for teacher assistants funds to be reduced by \$120 million, or about 21 percent in FY 2014 and 19% in FY2015.

Master Pay for Teachers – Strips the salary boost for teachers with advanced degrees, unless required for the teaching position, beginning in FY2015.

Teacher Raises - The budget includes no raises for state employees or teachers, but they will get an extra five days of vacation.

Digital Teaching Tools – Requires State Board of Education to develop a program to instruct teachers and administrators in digital teaching tools.

Cursive and Times Tables – Requires students to learn cursive writing and memorize multiplication tables.

Home Schools – Definition broadened, and parents or guardians no longer have to provide instruction. Parents determining the course of instruction and additional sources of education would meet this definition. *(continued page 11)*

Charter Schools – Establishes priority and procedures for students applying to charter schools; makes changes to what qualifies as a material revision to a charter application; creates a charter school advisory board; says that only 50% of teachers in a charter school must have a teaching license; requires those teaching math, science, social studies and language arts to be college graduates.

Health Education – Must now include abortion as a preventable cause of preterm birth in future pregnancies.

School Buses – Reduces funding for bus replacement and requires buses to be in use for 20 years or incurred 200,000 miles before qualifying for replacement funding.

Community College/UNC System Tuition: University - Raise tuition by 12.3 percent next year for out-of-state students attending University of North Carolina campuses in Chapel Hill, Wilmington, Greensboro, and Winston-Salem. Out-of-state tuition would rise 6 percent at other campuses;

Community College - Increase community college tuition this year from \$69 to \$71.50 per credit hour for residents, or a maximum of \$80 per year for full-time students. **NC Back-to-Work Program** - Provide \$4.8 million in one-time money for NC Back-to-Work program, a retraining program for the

long-term unemployed in the community college system. **Community College Senior Waiver** - Eliminates the community college tuition waiver for senior citizens, a \$970,000 annual cost that has allowed residents 65 or older to take many courses for free.

Minutes and Pictures from May 2013 Meeting

Delta Kappa Gamma Society

Alpha Delta Chapter

May 3, 2013 Minutes

The Alpha Delta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma met May 3, 2013 at Woodmont United Methodist Church in Reidsville. Hostesses were Anna Pruitt, chair; Marti Hyatt, Sara Quate, Susan Thompson, and Ruth Williamson. Thirty-one members attended. During the social time, members enjoyed the Used Book and DVD Sale that benefits World Fellowship.

Patsy Snyder presented the chapter Grant-in-Aid to Samantha Elkin. She was accompanied by her mother and grandmother. The chapter also provided dorm shower presents.

Pam Page led the program, representing the Alpha Delta Beginning Teacher Support Committee. Student teacher Clarisa Fagge and first year teacher Krystal Pruitt spoke on their experiences in the classroom.

President Debbie Russell conducted the business meeting. The March 1 minutes were approved. Treasurer Sharon Vaughn reported a balance of \$7327.01, with the Grant in Aid at \$3160.58. The Executive Board recommended that the chapter provide up to \$75 for canteen snacks to be served at the Region VII Blood Drive June 14th. The chapter approved. The Executive Board also recommended that the chapter provide up to \$50 for refreshment to be served at the summer Book Club meeting. The chapter approved. President Russell and Rachel Scott reported on their attendance to the Eta State Convention in Charlotte. Rachel Scott is chairperson of the State Headquarters Committee. Alpha Delta Chapter received an Excellence award at the state convention for the newsletter. The chapter also earned a Distinctive Award for Achievement.

Committee Reports:

Finance Chair Susan Thompson presented the proposed 2013-2014 budget. It was accepted.

Leadership Chair Carol Holcomb requested that members sign up for their preferred summer Book Club meeting date.

The Membership Committee presented two names on the ballot. Both nominees will be invited to join Alpha Delta.

Educational Law and Policy Chair Ruth Williamson requested that members take two DKG surveys: The Vision and Legislative Priority Survey and The State Budget Survey.

(Continued page 12)

The World Fellowship Chair Mary Hux reported that unsold books and DVDs will be donated to the public library.

New Business

Members are encouraged to volunteer for the Region VII Blood Drive June 14th at St. Paul Catholic Church in Greensboro. The Chapter Strategic Action Plan is the goals for next year. Work on the plan will be underway during the summer.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectively Submitted,

Jeryl Rice, Secretary



World Fellowship DVD and Book Sale



Cash Cassidy always has a wonderful feast for us at our May meeting.



2013 Scholarship Winner, Samantha Elkins, with family members and Caswell County sponsors.



Samantha Elkins with family.

Communications Committee

Donna Rawlins - dtrawlinsdkg@gmail.com

Paige McCargo - pmccargo@hotmail.com

Newsletter Submissions for December 2013 Alpha Delta News are due November 25, 2013.

