Zeta State recognizes two for achievement in the organization!
from Teri Edwards

At the 2015 Zeta State Convention, the Awards Committee presented two deserving individuals with the Zeta State Achievement Award. Ms. Toni Cook is a retired special education teacher from Gulfport and a member of Alpha Upsilon. She has been a member of DKG for 27 years. Not only has she been active in her own chapter, but has made significant contributions in making Zeta State what it is today. Toni is one of those faithful chapter members willing to serve in any capacity needed. She has served her chapter as president for two terms, as well as served as First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Recording Secretary, and Parliamentarian. She was also recognized by her chapter as a Woman of Distinction in 2005. At district meetings and state conventions, Toni Cook and Betsy Sullivan you will find Toni participating and leading workshops centered on areas of interest. At the state level, she has served on virtually every committee known and has held the offices of Recording Secretary, Second Vice-President, First Vice-President and Webmaster. Toni Cook is one of those members you can always count on to step up to the plate when needed and do so with a smile on her face.

Our second Zeta State Achievement Award was present to Dr. Betsy Sullivan. She is a member of Pi Chapter and has been a member of DKG for 25 years. At the chapter level, she has served on all committees in multiple capacities, as well as, President and First Vice-President. She was also recognized by her chapter as a Woman of Distinction. Beyond the chapter level, Betsy has served as Assistant District Director and on many committees, including Scholarship, Communications, and History of Zeta State. She also has received scholarships from Pi Chapter, Zeta State, and Delta Kappa Gamma Society International for the purpose of continued graduate work. In addition to her many contributions to DKG, she has also served in many roles and been recognized for her accomplishments within her field, such as President of Mississippi Science Teachers Association, Outstanding Biology Teaching Award from the National Association of Biology Teachers, and a High School Teaching Award given by MSTA, just to name a few. She can easily be described as a “go-getter” who has made significant
contributions not only to DKG but also to the field of education. She is the epitome of the seven purposes of our society. Dr. Betsy Sullivan currently teaches at Madison Central High School

DKG: Opportunity, Wisdom, Leadership

Nancy Jay, President

Time flies (especially if you’re a DKG: OWL)! These past two years have been a wonderful experience for me serving as Zeta State President. I have learned much about our Society and, while travelling all around the state, I have enjoyed the fellowship and wisdom of “Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide”.

I’ve heard many members say our Zeta State Convention was the best ever!!! I agree! “Hoots” to our Convention Chair, Karen Rhodes, and her devoted convention committee members, Janet Berg and Sylvia Gambill. And what a blessing it was that Becky Sadowski was sent to us as the International Representative! She blended with our membership and we absolutely loved having her, not as a guest, but one of us!

There is not enough time and space in the Zeta Data to allow me to say everything I want to say and thank everyone who prepared great events for this convention and throughout the biennium. There is no way I could have accomplished anything and everything without the help, guidance, and support of state officers, related personnel, committee chairmen, chapter presidents and members. You know, I think, the reason for Zeta State’s success is that we, all, work as one; everyone doing her job and doing it “owlsome”.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as Zeta State President for the 2013-2015 biennium. It has been a privilege representing Mississippi and its DKG members. Now, as we welcome a new president and leadership team, I am happy to stand aside and enjoy the vitality of a new, but very strong, leadership team for the 2015-2017 biennium. Zeta State is in good hands!
Women of Distinction are Honored at Zeta State Convention
by Chris B. Wall, State Personal Growth and Services Representation, EEC

Each chapter in Zeta State has the opportunity to elect a Woman of Distinction each biennium. These women educators have exhibited outstanding leadership qualities and service. They are dedicated to our Society and its purposes and mission. Also, they are committed to nurturing and mentoring new members of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International and setting the example for all to follow.

At the Celebration Luncheon, we were proud to recognize and honor thirty-two (32) Women of Distinction. Each recipient received a Woman of Distinction pin. Those recognized as a Woman of Distinction for 2015-2017 were: Dr. Ruthie Stevenson – BETA; Cheryl Thomas-Gamma; Pamela R. Barnes-Delta; Debbie Fayard Rogers-Zeta; Dorie Kisner-Eta; Norma Hammill-Theta; Susan Pratt Berryhill-Iota; Janet Arthur-Xi; Chris B. Wall-Pi; Theresa Bee-Rho; Nina Gutherie-Sigma; Dr. Elizabeth “Libby” Mahaffey-Tau; Margaret Ann Sanders-Upsilon; Dawn Rogers-Phi; Martha Rogers-Chi; Cheryl McGinnis-Omega; Mary
Schaub-Alpha Alpha; Mary Dayne Gregg-Alpha Beta; Dr. Allison Downing-Alpha Gamma; Janet M. Conley-Alpha Delta; Nancy Jay-Alpha Theta; Beverly R. Allen-Alpha Iota; Paula Mabry-Alpha Kappa; Jeanette Thomas-Alpha Lambda; Karen G. Collins-Alpha Omicron; Cheryl Jones-Alpha Rho; Laura Little-Alpha Sigma; Nancy Lockhart-Alpha Upsilon; Kathryn Garner-Alpha Phi; Joy Schaub-Alpha Chi; Dr. Jenetta Waddell-Alpha Psi and Vernell Graham-Alpha Omega.

Congratulations to each of our Zeta State Women of Distinction for 2015-17! We truly value and appreciate your dedication and the efforts you have made to promote, lead and enrich your local chapter, our state organization and the Society.

Recognition of Chapter Service Projects
by Chris B. Wall, State Personal Growth and Services Representation, EEC

At the Zeta State Executive Board meeting, it was reported that thirty-one (31) chapters submitted Chapter Service Reports for 2014-15. They were: Northern District – Eta Chapter – Debra Anderson, President; Iota Chapter – Dot Prestwich, President; Upsilon Chapter – Debra Brewer, President; Phi Chapter – Jamie Houston, President; Alpha Delta Chapter – Janet Conley, President; Alpha Iota Chapter – Suzanne Brasfield, President; Alpha Kappa Chapter – Donna Hopper, President; Alpha Sigma Chapter – Sandi Jackson, President; Alpha Phi Chapter – Nancy Parkerson, President; and Alpha Psi Chapter – Sherrell Settlemires, President. Central District – Beta Chapter – Sylvia Haver, President; Gamma Chapter – Janet Berg, President; Delta Chapter – Ollie Crosby, President; Zeta Chapter – Lauren Withers Olsen, President; Theta Chapter – Jennie Skinner, President; Xi Chapter – Jeanette Thrash, President; Pi Chapter – Cheryl Saffle, President; Tau Chapter – Judith Isonhood, President; Chi Chapter – Tiffany Brantley, President; Alpha Chi Chapter – Shawna Mangum, President; and Beta Alpha Chapter – Ann Campbell, President. Southern District – Rho Chapter – Eva Guice, President; Sigma Chapter – Stacy Baudoin, President; Psi Chapter – Michele Mills, President; Alpha Alpha Chapter – Beverly Hesterman, President; Alpha Beta Chapter – Bettie Fore, President; Alpha Theta Chapter – Winona Dykes, President; Alpha Lambda Chapter – Mary Trichell, President; Alpha Xi Chapter – Debby Renfro, President; Alpha Omicron Chapter – Susan Bonnette, President; Alpha Upsilon Chapter – Kathleen Drummond, President; and Alpha Omega Chapter – Wanda Sanford, President.

These service project reports revealed that members had spent hours planning, preparing and coordinating educational events and activities to benefit children and adults in their communities. Projects focused on providing children and adults with books and various educational resources to enrich their learning experiences; monetary donations were given to schools to assist with providing students in need lunch money; many provided clothing and/or children’s books for
homeless shelters, libraries, daycares and Headstart centers, as well as medical facilities and clinics. Also, school supplies and instructional resources were given to early career educators to assist them during their first year of teaching. It was evident that time was spent in many chapters supporting our Second International Project – Supporting early Career Educators (SEE) through one-on-one mentoring visits to encourage and support these new teachers. These activities are only a few examples of the kinds of service projects that chapters were involved with to serve children and adults to emphasize the value of an education and the benefits of becoming productive citizens in their communities. Many of the chapter service projects were highlighted at the convention on a display board outside the Grand Ballroom. Service Project ideas can be found on the Zeta State website at http://www.zetastatedkg.org. Special thanks and appreciation to our chapter presidents and their Personal Growth and Services representative for their time and efforts made to inspire, encourage and involve members in Chapter Service Projects during this biennium.

**Zeta State Scholarships Awarded**

Congratulations to the recipients of the Zeta State scholarships. Yolanda Randle, Eta chapter, is the Clytee Evans scholarship recipient of $1000.00. Yolanda is working on a Master’s degree in Educational Technology and Leadership from Lamar University. Joanna Alston, Alpha Lambda chapter, is the Amanda Lowther scholarship recipient of $2000.00. Joanna is working on her Ph.D in Adult Education from USM. Best wishes to these two very deserving Zeta State members who excel in their educational areas.

**2015 Convention “First Timers”**

from Lynn Holliday, Headquarters Committee Chair
Our congratulations from the Headquarters Committee to the “first timers” whose names were drawn for attending the sessions and activities throughout the day of the convention. The drawing was conducted at the banquet and ladies had to be present to win. The money for this drawing was obtained from the Silent Auction conducted at the District Meetings. This committee always tries to give back to the membership when we have the Silent Auctions and in saying that, the registration for three “first timers” will be chosen at the Celebration Luncheon from each district when we have the District Meetings in 2016. Please encourage members from your chapters to step up and go beyond the chapter level so they too can be involved in our “First Timers” recognition drawing.

Ladies whose names were drawn at the banquet include:
Teresa Anderson - Omega; Jennie Skinner - Theta; Deborah Boone - Theta; Kelli Beech - Sigma; Jackie Pruett – Alpha Kappa; Yolanda Randle - Eta; Susan Bonnette - Alpha Omicron; Reba Greer – Alpha Delta; and Lindsay Griffin – Alpha Chi
Congratuations again!

2015 SEE: Support Early-career Educators
from Linda Hollingsworth

Twenty-five Chapters out of 40 submitted a SEE Chapter Report Form by February 1, 2015:
Beta, Gamma, Delta, Eta, Theta, Iota, Pi, Rho, Sigma, Tau, Upsilon, Psi, Alpha Alpha, Alpha Gamma, Alpha Delta, Alpha Theta, Alpha Iota, Alpha Kappa, Alpha Lambda, Alpha Xi, Alpha Omicron, Alpha Upsilon, Alpha Phi, Alpha Chi, Alpha Psi.

SEE Project Hours: Total compiled hours of SEE Mentoring 1319 hrs.
This was the first time the SEE Project forms for mentoring ECE’s were submitted by Zeta State chapters. Chapters started working/mentoring ECE’s for the SEE Project in spring of 2014.

Zeta State Grant-in-Aid - Makayla Cooper
from Bettie Fore
The Zeta State Grant-in-Aid of $500 is given to a young woman who has received the chapter grant-in-aid. She must be a rising senior in the field of education. She must complete all forms, write a two page typed letter explaining why she wants to be a teacher, have three letters of recommendation (one from a college
professor, one from the chapter president, one from a chapter member) and submit her transcript. The recipient this year is Makayla Cooper. She was sponsored by Alpha Gamma Chapter.

Bettie Fore, Makayla Cooper, Makayla’s Mother

Chapter Presidents receiving awards for their Chapters

Yearbook awards Info for the Zeta Data
from Tracey Crawford

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Newsletter Award Final List
from Dorie Kisner

33 out of 40 chapters sent the required two newsletters to be recognized today. Last year at District meeting only 29 out of 40 chapter so our numbers have increased!

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Chapters participating in Red Rose Program
from Bettie Fore
The Red Rose Award is given by individual chapters to a woman who resides or works in the chapter area but who is not a member of DKG. She has benefited education and the status of women in educational leadership roles.
The following chapters received recognition for giving this award at the 2015 Zeta State Convention: Upsilon, Pi, Gamma, Delta, Omega, Alpha Upsilon, Rho, and Alpha Beta.
What an honor to be in the same room with eight of our “Stars of Mississippi”….dedicated ladies of DKG who have served for 50 or more years in our Society! These ladies were strategically place in our Celebration Luncheon……right in the center of the room….a fitting place for all of them because service would be at the “center” of what we are about in Delta Kappa Gamma!

Each of the eight ladies was given a beautiful wrist corsage and introduced by name, chapter and initiation year to the attendees.  What a joy it was to see their smiles as they stood to be recognized!

This is dedication and service to our Society….in the flesh!  A standing ovation followed all of the introductions! During the luncheon, a continuous run power point presentation of ALL of our Stars showed their individual picture, chapter and initiation year.

The following ladies were presented at the luncheon and recognized:

Ruby Jones  Iota  1950
Betty R. Oswald  Alpha Lambda  1961
Anita Betty Hearon  Alpha Beta  1962
Claudia Berneice Barham  Alpha Beta  1962
Mary Ann Wilson  Alpha Delta  1962
Dot M. Dorman  Chi  1963
Adilaid Maddox  Lambda  1963
Mary Emma Lansing  Alpha Theta  1964

We regret that all of our ladies could not be present at the convention and they were missed.

Our “Stars of Mississippi” number 26 at this time and all of their names were listed in the 2015 Convention Program and in the Zeta Data article in January, 2015.

We were also blessed to have several family members of these ladies present at the Luncheon.

The Zeta State Membership Committee will be able to add to this list each year and continue this special recognition at future conventions.
LOOK at all the Past Presidents attending the 2015 Zeta State Convention! Zeta State’s Order of the Magnolia.

Front Row, left to right: Angela Bedenbaugh, Jeanette Reinike, Dot Rieves, Betty Oswald, Nancy Jay

Back Row, left to right: Sharon Enzor, Carol Rigby, Jean Ricks, Evelyn Barron, Cynthia Colburn, Betty Barrett, Eva Guice, Lynn Holliday, Sandra McKiernon, Karen Fayard

Visit our Blog for more news! Zeta Data Blog
Dear Zeta State Officers, Related Personnel, and Committee Chairmen,

Thank you very much for the Pandora DKG slide and the ΔΚΓ pendant. I will cherish them always, and I appreciate your support throughout the 2013-2015 biennium. This was a team effort, and I am proud to call y'all "sisters".

Zeta State President, 2013-2015

2015-2017 Zeta State Officers
Tracey Crawford - President; Linda Hollingsworth - 1st Vice President; Joanna Alton - 2nd Vice President; Stephanie Jones - Recording Secretary

2015-2017 Directors and Assistants
Janice Garrett, Janet Conley - Northern and Asst.
Janet Berg, Betsy Sullivan - Central and Asst.; Sarajane Smith and Sybil Wilner - Southern and Asst.