

## Zeta State Achievement Award Recipients: Karen Rhodes and Mary Berry



Zeta State presented Karen Rhodes and Mary Berry with the 2011 Achievement Awards during the Celebration Banquet of Zeta State Convention, April 2, 2011. Karen and Mary, Zeta State thanks you for all that you have done and will continue to do for Zeta State.



Vision: Discover the Wonders...

and haven't we discovered some wonderful things about Zeta State these past two years?! We have discovered new leadership within the state as well as in chapters, discovered new members from a variety of educational areas, discovered research skills that had been put on the shelf for a few years, and discovered that all things march on. New leadership is coming and coming in with a bang. I am very excited about new president Karen Fayard and all that she and her team will bring to Zeta State. We are in for a treat.

As I complete my vision for Zeta state, I will now put on sunshades. Not to block out things, but to show I can rest and relax with the new leadership coming onboard.

Sunshades give our eyes rest. After our wonderful convention, we certainly need a rest. The convention committee and state officers worked tirelessly to prepare for the convention and have a variety of sessions for us. With a new international constitution before us, the **By-laws** committee with parliamentarian Jean Ricks, quickly rose to the occasion and prepared our state **By Laws** to align. It was a fine job of pulling together to make this convention one of the best.

Sunshades come in a variety of styles and colors. Be looking for new styles of leadership with our new officers. They are already meeting and planning for the next two years. Let us all be excited about the new styles of things to come and how we can be a part of the new and exciting.

This summer the Leadership Development Committee has prepared a wonderful Leadership Management Seminar that will be held for the first time in Columbus at Plymouth Bluff. It is a beautiful site and all of the participants will enjoy the accommodations as well as the activities the committee has planned. As you look at your personal schedules in the next two years, plan ahead and try to be a part of all the activities Zeta State and international offers. Come join some twenty plus of us in Louisville, KY for SE Regional. Fun things are planned.

As I end my last article, let me once again thank all of you for the kindnesses, words of encouragement, and energy that you brought to this biennium. The beautiful gifts and donations in my honor and my husband's memory have touched me deeply. Keep in mind we must always be looking ahead, checking to see if we are on the right tract, and remember these very profound words by humorist Will Rogers, "Even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there." We are not just sitting there, the 2009-2011 officers have completed their work and leave the "forward moving ever" to Karen and her team of new officers. Zeta State is on the move and get on the right track and don't just sit there. We have more to do.



See you in Louisville...

Cynthia Colburn, Zeta State President 2009-2011

Thank you, Mississippi DKG members, for inviting me to participate in your state convention in Natchez. It was an outstanding meeting! Zeta state is certainly moving forward with energy and enthusiasm. I enjoyed meeting so many of you.

I appreciated the gift of two books about Natchez and Mississippi. This was my first visit to your state, so next time will be more knowledgeable when I arrive.

Best wishes for a good year.

Carolyn Rants, Immediate Past International President



*Aleta Sullivan and Carolyn Rants*

## Natchez Pre-Conference Seminar 2011

Kay Collins

Even though it was April Fool's Day, the ladies who participated in Delta Kappa Gamma's pre-conference seminar were far from fools. This group of 65 ladies left the Grand Hotel in Natchez for a half-day tour. The viewing of a short film, The Natchez Story, at the Natchez Visitors' Center started off our day of learning.

Two homes were highlighted on our tour. Longwood Plantation, also known as Nutt's Folly, was a unique looking plantation house. Rather than the usual Greek Revival style that most people chose in the South during that era, the builder preferred a multistory, octagonal, Oriental Revival style. We were impressed with the unfinished six-story house that contained 32 rooms, 9 of which were finished. We learned that as the house neared completion, the Civil War broke out and construction halted. The workers were needed at home, so they left the house in an unfinished state. Fortunately, construction of the exterior was complete; only the inside of the massive home was never finished. We all had plans for and dreams of living there.

Our next stop was Stanton Hall, one of the most visited National Historic Landmarks in America today. This white mansion sat on a tree-shaded property encompassing an entire city block in the heart of Natchez. No expense was spared and every detail was carefully carried out, from the four immense white Corinthian columns on the front gallery to the Sheffield silver knobs and hinges used throughout the mansion. In every room bronze chandeliers depicted a part of Natchez history. We saw magnificent white marble mantels that had been sculptured in New York. The massive gold-leaf mirrors that we all admired were ordered from France. This house featured gorgeous silver serving pieces in the dining room. Again, we all wanted to go back in time to party at this house.

On the grounds of Stanton Hall was the famous Carriage House Restaurant where we were served a bounteous buffet. After eating more than we should have, the buses took us back to the Grand Hotel. Beautiful homes, gorgeous weather, a pleasant and fun group, great food, and a well-planned trip made this one of the best pre-conference seminars ever!



Visit our site for links to many more photos!

[Zetastatedkg.wikispaces.com](http://Zetastatedkg.wikispaces.com)

## Golden Gift Challenge

Becky Rhinehart

Having attended the International Leadership Management Seminar, Golden Gift recipients know the life-changing experience that we had there. Tough economic times have caused financial resources to be scarce. The Golden Gift Fund has enough in its budget to support the Seminar in 2012, but there are no funds for the 2014 Seminar. At a twenty-year reunion in Little Rock in March, eleven members of the Class of 1991 decided to donate \$3,000 toward sponsoring a sister for the 2014 Seminar. We are challenging other classes to donate this amount for this so that others in Delta Kappa Gamma can gain the skills presented at the Seminar. This challenge is supported by the International President, Executive Secretary, and Golden Gift Fund chairman. Former International Golden Gift Chairmen are being contacted to spread the word to their classes. This challenge will be presented at the Regional Conferences this summer. The Class of 1991 will present their check to the Golden Gift Fund at the 2012 Convention in New York City. We challenge other classes to present their checks at this time.

## Grant-in-Aid Book Sale

Kay Collins

Books, Books, Books! Thanks to Delta Kappa Gamma members from all over the state of Mississippi who brought books to donate, the Professional Affairs Committee made \$920 for grant-in-aid. Our book display was set up in the hallway at the Grand Hotel for conference participants to peruse and buy. Books of all kinds were available for sale. Hardback books sold for \$2.00, while paperback books brought \$1.00 each. Book purchasers were given free book lights, thanks to Linda Hollingsworth. The very successful sale was a wonderful way to make money for grant-in-aid and to encourage literacy. Thanks again to those who brought books to sell and to those who bought books.

## Grant-in-Aid's 2011 Recipient

Kay Collins

The recipient of Zeta State's Grant-in-Aid for the 2011 year is Rachel Clark. Rachel, sponsored by Alpha Psi Chapter, is a junior at Blue Mountain College. Rachel was said to be "an intelligent, mature, young lady who exhibits qualities we hope our children's teachers will display and our future members will possess, as well." Rachel is an outstanding student who goes above and beyond in all areas, excelling in leadership activities, awards and honors, grades, and school organizations.



*(L-R) Kay Collins, Rachel Clark, and Angie Quinn*

**Zeta State's Professional Affairs Committee**

appreciated all of the outstanding applicants who were nominated by chapters from around the state. We had an outstanding pool of applicants, which made the decision a difficult one. Thanks to all of the chapters that nominated someone.

**Scholarship Recipient Allison Downing**

Virginia Ann Butler

Allison Armstrong Downing, the recipient of our Clytee Evans Scholarship, is completing her Ph.D in Science Education at the University of Southern Mississippi. She has taught science in middle school and high school and is currently an assistant professor at William Carey University. Her activity in Delta Kappa Gamma could be described as "jumping in with both feet" upon her initiation in 2007. Officially, she has been Membership Chair and Corresponding Secretary of the Alpha Gamma Chapter. Unofficially, she has participated in local activities, attended meetings outside the chapter, encouraged others to participate with her, and nominated her younger sister Lauren Hutto to the organization. Allison's mother Phyllis Downing, a longtime member of Alpha Beta chapter, was present for the presentation of the scholarship.



*(L – R) Phyllis Armstrong, Allison Downing, and Virginia Ann Butler*

**WOMEN OF DISTINCTION HONORED AT STATE CONVENTION - Barbara Jepsen**

Thirty six women were named by their chapters as Woman of Distinction, 2011. They were selected for their contributions to Delta Kappa Gamma and to education. They were honored at the state convention at the Celebration Luncheon on Saturday, April 2. Their names and chapters were read to the audience as well as a listing of some of their accomplishments. They were presented with certificates, pins, and a DVD of all the honorees.



*Zeta State Women of Distinction 2011*

**PERSONAL GROWTH & SERVICES SERVICE PROJECT PARTICIPANTS RECOGNIZED AT STATE CONVENTION - Barbara Jepsen**

Twenty six chapters reported on their projects involving Numeracy & Literacy activities this biennium. The projects included donations of materials, books and money to groups from preschool, kindergarten, K-12 and hospitals and retirement centers. Four chapters donated money to Schools for Africa which is the new biennium's service project for Personal Growth & Services. Chapters were presented certificates for their reports.

Omega Chapter made a donation to Schools for Africa as their Personal Growth and Services project. Their name was omitted from the list that was read out at convention. We are sorry for the error.

See the 2011 Zeta State  
Women of Distinction Video

at

<http://zetastatedkg.wikispaces.com>

and click on the link

visit our websites

[zetastatedkg.wikispaces.com](http://zetastatedkg.wikispaces.com)

<http://zetadata.blogspot.com/>

[www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org)

**Ceremony of Remembrance** - Sandra McKiernon

“The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.” Psalms 121

The Zeta State Membership Committee conducted a beautiful Hour of Memory at the Zeta State Convention on April 1, 2011. A lovely prelude was played by Mary Johnston at the harp as members of the membership committee and the Order of the Magnolia entered the room. Mellannie Adams sang “A Seasonal Thanksgiving” followed by a prayer by Cynthia Colburn. Chris Wall led the members in a responsive reading from Psalms. Joanna Kissick then sang “In Memory”. As Sandra McKiernon presented the names candles were lit by Chris Wall, and Toni Cook and Stephanie Jones delivered white roses to chapters as they stood in memory of their beloved members.

Those Zeta State remembered this year included:

Northern District:

Nell Thomas, Lambda; Kay Coats, Upsilon; Eupal Thornberry, Phi; Brenda Barbee Ballard, Alpha Delta; Cleo Ivy, Alpha Psi

Central District:

Winifred Hamrick Farrar, Gamma; Jane Bailey, Tau; Martha Dunlap, Tau; Hilda McRaney, Tau; Doris Cox Jackson, Beta Alpha

Southern District:

Ruth Campbell, Psi; Ellen Miles, Psi; Jessie Peel, Psi; LeMoyne Graham, Alpha Alpha; Louise Sorrells Howell, Alpha Gamma; Alma Boyd, Alpha Theta; Max Breazeale, Zeta



*Elvis lives!*

## *Chapter Recognitions by District*



*Northern*



*Central*



*Southern*



*2011 - 2013 Zeta State Officers*

(L-R) Karen Fayard, President; Toni Cook, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President;  
Teri Edwards, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Deborah Cain, Secretary



*2011 - 2013 District Directors and Assistants*

(L – R) Sara Hardin, Marsha Cummings, Tracey Crawford, Chris Wall, Angie Quinn, and Marsha Shaddock