Zeta State Achievement Award Recipient, Sherrill Haynes!

Sherrill Haynes, with her daughter, Tracey Crawford
Zeta State Convention is now a memory. The convention got off to an early start when 32 early arrivals gathered for dinner at the Half Shell Restaurant in Gulfport. The gathering was a time for genuine spiritual fellowship. Friday morning 55 members boarded the tour bus to visit selected sights on the Coast and lunch at Mary Mahoney’s. By 3:30 everyone was down to the business of the Society. Chapter presidents met and hopefully had questions answered. The Zeta State dinner was followed by the Executive Board Meeting, where reports were given, recommendations were made, and the business of the Society was handled.

Saturday was a busy day beginning with the General Membership Session, followed by workshops, the Birthday Luncheon and the Hour of Memory. The night came to a close with the President’s Banquet and the installation of our new officers. The weekend was definitely a whirlwind! I hope that all who attended had a meaningful experience and were eager to share their experience with others in their chapters.

One of the actions taken by the Executive Board was to issue an invitation to honorary membership to Chief Phyllis J. Anderson, Chief of the Mississippi Band of the Choctaw. She has accepted that invitation and will, on June 1, be initiated as an Honorary Zeta State member! Xi Chapter will be hosting this event. Chief Anderson has done much in the area of education for the Choctaws.

Mississippi will be well represented at the Southeast Regional Conference in Orlando this summer. Nancy Jay, our 2013-2015 president will be trained; and Alpha Iota members, Kimberly Allen and Suzanne Brasfield, will be participating a pre-convention session on building and strengthening chapters. There will be many speakers and sessions for everyone, and, of course, there will be a great deal of genuine spiritual fellowship.

It is difficult to comprehend that this biennium will come to an end June 30th!! These have been the shortest and busiest two years of my life. I hope that each of you has been involved in the restructure of our Society at the state and local levels, that each of you has rediscovered why you are a part of this great organization, and that each of you feels revitalized and eager to continue to be an active member. I will treasure the many memories I have of this biennium and thank each of you for your support.

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**Order of MAGNOLIA Induction**

from Cynthia Colburn

Zeta State Convention
April, 2013

What an exciting time for Zeta State President Karen Fayard. She is now in the process of completing her term as our president and beginning a new role as one of the Order of MAGNOLIA. It was a beautiful time for 14 of our past state presidents to be in attendance at the convention and welcome Karen to our group. This must be a first in our state to have this many past state presidents together and probably a first in the southeast. I do believe Corlea was impressed. Thank you, Karen. You have represented us well, led with distinction and grace, and will continue to serve our state in her new role as ZS Past President.

As her recognition gift, Karen received her hand painted Magnolia plate painted by yet another of
Zeta State’s past presidents, Lynne Holliday. This is a true gift from one Magnolia to another. Welcome, Karen in our midst. You did us proud.

**Zeta State Women of Distinction**
from Claire Craig

Thirty-seven Women of Distinction were recognized at the Zeta State Celebration Luncheon on April 6th. The ladies enjoyed special seating for the celebration luncheon and a personal salute as each was asked to stand and be recognized for their individual contributions to education, community, and the Delta Kappa Gamma Society. Each Woman of Distinction received a personalized memento and the Woman of Distinction pin. A pictorial presentation of the 37 Women of Distinction is currently posted on the Zeta State website.

**Northern District**
- Eta-Janice Garrett
- Iota-Virginia Bush
- Upsilon-Dr. Debra Brewer
- Alpha Delta-Barbara Tate Jepsen
- Alpha Iota-Claire Craig
- Alpha Kappa-Cathy Kemp
- Alpha Sigma-Donna Neal Kirkbride
- Alpha Tau-Gwendoyn Pearson
- Alpha Phi-Margaret Monteith Davis
- Alpha Psi-Angela Quinn

**Central District**
- Beta-Donna Robbins
- Gamma-Dr. Sula J. Marsalis
- Theta-Bobbie Kimble
- Lambda-Amy Spencer
- Nu-Billye Tingle
- Xi-Dr. Jackie Sampsell
- Pi-Fonda Dickinson
- Tau-Melissa Black
- Chi-Carol Rigby
- Alpha Chi-Jan Stuckey
- Beta Alpha-Ann Campbell

**Southern District**
- Delta-Brenda McClendon
- Zeta-Diane Hayes
- Rho-Shirley Banks
- Sigma-Mary Williams
- Psi-Harriet Manuel
- Omega-Elizabeth Bryan
- Alpha Alpha-Beverly Hesterman
- Alpha Beta-Angela Bedenbaugh
- Alpha Gamma-Dr. Brenda Thomas
- Alpha Theta-JoAnn Carruth
- Alpha Lambda-Stephanie Jones
- Alpha Nu-Julia Bass
- Alpha Xi-Dr. Rachel Carpenter
- Alpha Omicron-Evelyn Geter
- Alpha Upsilon-Jacqueline Wintruba
- Alpha Omega-Gail Stephens

**Zeta State Service Projects**
from Claire Craig

Thirty-six chapters received recognition for their service projects at the Zeta State Convention April 5th and 6th. Although most service projects focused on mentoring early-career educators or providing books and literacy materials to children, there was great variety as well. In addition to providing reflection kits for new teachers, Alpha Upsilon sent gift cards and tea towels to Hurricane Sandy victims and held a prayer vigil for Newtown victims. Alpha Gamma had the clever idea of hosting a Pinterest party for new teachers. Alpha Iota presented Two-Can Read (literacy project for pre-k children) and ProsFirst (mentoring project) in a workshop entitled “A Chapter in Action—Not Just Another Hen Party.” Rho and Alpha Omega sponsor an annual essay contest for elementary students. Other chapters focus on helping women and children in need: Alpha Kappa provides money and business attire for local women seeking employment, Xi does Pack-a-Purse or Pack-a-Backpack for victims of domestic violence, and Alpha Chi makes Blessing Bags for needy children. Alpha Phi’s project provides desks to schools in rural Africa, and Alpha Theta supports Excel by 5 with kitchen supplies and
books. It is impossible to mention all of the outstanding projects but a photo display featuring the variety and creativity of Zeta State service projects was available at the convention and is available to any chapter that wishes to borrow it for a chapter or district meeting.

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Chapter Newsletter Awards
from Cathy Kemp

One of the most important ways for chapters to maintain excellent communication is through regularly published newsletters. Either sent through the mail or distributed electronically, newsletters are an excellent way to keep members up to date on chapter and state events, business conducted at past meetings, programs for upcoming meetings, member information such as birthdays, births or transitions, and other useful or interesting information.

As your state communications chairman, I have enjoyed receiving and reading newsletters from chapters all over the state. Each chapter has a unique personality, and this is often reflected in the style and content of the newsletter. Because newsletters are believed to be such an important communication tool, chapters who publish at least two newsletters per year are given recognition as well as points for the honor chapter criteria.

This past year, those chapters who sent in at least two newsletters to me are:

Northern District: Eta, Iota, Upsilon, Alpha Delta, Alpha Iota, Alpha Kappa, Alpha Phi, and Alpha Psi

Central District: Beta, Gamma, Theta, Xi, Pi, Tau, Alpha Chi, Beta Alpha

Southern District: Rho, Sigma, Psi, Alpha Beta, Alpha Gamma, Alpha Theta, Alpha Lambda, Alpha Omicron, Alpha Upsilon

Stay connected through the written word – it’s a great way to build chapter cohesiveness!

Preconvention Frolics
from Virginia Ann Butler, Alpha Gamma chapter

The appropriate first stop for the preconvention tour for Zeta State was at The Friendship Oak on the beachfront campus of The University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Park. Dating from 1487, its brochure promises, “Those who enter my shadow will remain friends through all their lifetimes.”

The next stop at the Katrina Memorial poignantly recalled both the destruction of the hurricane with its representative collection of debris left in its wake and the determination to bring beauty from destruction in the sea animal sculpture carved from
a dead tree.

At the Biloxi Museum, a few adventurous members crossed the street to climb the lighthouse while the rest toured the museum with an excellent tribute to the many cultures who contributed to life on the Gulf Coast.

The much-anticipated visit to the Ohr-O’Keefe Museum did not disappoint but held an unexpected surprise. Mississippi artist Lydia Thompson’s three-dimensional art from paper and foamboard depicted the cotton fields from many of our memories and left us regretting that pictures were not allowed.

The tour finished with lunch at Mary Mahoney’s where most of the group followed the wise suggestion to have the shrimp and crab au gratin. Mr. Mahoney entertained with jokes old and new as we waited to be served.

Judging by the buzz, not unlike that of swarms of happy bees, as the bus traveled between destinations, the group obviously had entered the shadow of The Friendship Oak.

Dana Boozer is awarded The Clytee Evans Zeta State Scholarship
from Rosemary Woullard

The Zeta State Scholarship Committee honored Dana Boozer from Eta chapter with the Zeta State Clytee Evans Scholarship at the Zeta State Convention held on the Coast. Dana received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Education August 2003 and currently teaches Information and Communications Technology 1 at Tupelo Middle School. She is also a National Board Certified Teacher in the area of Career and Technical and serves as a mentor for others working on their National Board Certification.

Dana also works statewide conducting professional development and curriculum training. She is currently working on her master's degree in Educational Technology Leadership.

Dana immediately became an active member of Eta Chapter after initiation. She served on the Personal Growth and Services Committee her first year. For the next biennium, Dana served as the chair of the Communications Committee. She currently serves as the chair of the Membership Committee and presides as 2nd Vice President.

Tina Wood, Grant-in-Aid Recipient
from Debbie Rogers

There were seven excellent Grant-In-Aid applicants this year. After carefully reading the applicants essays and letters of recommendation and reviewing the applications using the rubric, the EEC committee selected Tina Wood from New Albany. She was sponsored by Alpha Psi chapter. Tina is a non-traditional student. She was recognized at the birthday luncheon. Several of her instructors attended with her.

Yearbook Award Recipients from Toni Cook
Zeta State Convention was great!....and one of the best parts of the Convention was announcing the Chapter Yearbook Award recipients.

We had 34 out of 40 chapters who sent in yearbooks and received the Yearbook Award. I am so excited that this many chapters participated. I enjoyed reading every one of them. We have exciting and innovative chapter meetings and projects taking place throughout the state. Keep up the good work!

Northern District: Upsilon, Phi, Alpha Delta, Alpha Iota, Alpha Kappa, Alpha Sigma, Alpha Phi, Alpha Psi

Central District: Beta, Gamma, Theta, Lambda, Nu, Pi, Tau, Chi, Alpha Chi, Beta Alpha
Southern District: Delta, Rho, Sigma, Psi, Alpha Alpha, Alpha Beta, Alpha Gamma, Alpha Theta, Alpha Lambda, Alpha Nu, Alpha Omicron, Alpha Rho, Alpha Upsilon, Alpha Omega

**Red Rose Awards 2013** from Carol Rigby

One of the privileges of the Headquarters Committee is to present the Red Rose Award to chapters which have appropriately presented that award to a community non-member, and met all postmark and presentation requirements. This award is included as a requirement, to be presented once each biennium, for a chapter to obtain "Honor" chapter status. Most chapters fulfill this requirement during our even numbered years at district meetings. We congratulate all who have recognized their non-member community leaders, even if not with this specific award.

2013 Participating Chapters: Pi, Rho, Tau, Upsilon, Omega, Alpha Psi, and Alpha Omega.

2013-2015 Zeta State Officers: Nancy Jay, President; Tracey Crawford, 1st VP; Linda Hollingsworth, 2nd VP; Sybil Wilner, Recording Secretary

2013-2015 District and Assistant Directors: see side note

More information on Directors photo to the left:

Angie Quinn, Northern Director; Janice Garrett, Northern Assistant; Carol Walker, Central Director; Sue Keen, Central Assistant; Joanna Alston, Southern Director; Sarajane Smith, Southern Assistant
Northern District Women of Distinction

Central District Women of Distinction

Southern Women of Distinction

See more convention photos by clicking the link on our wiki:

zetastatedkg.wikispaces.com
Same back page as before