

ZETA DATA



Above & Beyond: Stepping Ahead in Leadership, Membership, & Mentorship

Please mark your calendar for the 2006 District Meetings:

March 4, 2006 Northern District Meeting
Northeast Community College, Booneville

March 18, 2006 Southern District Meeting
Mississippi Gulf Coast College, Perkinston

March 25, 2006 Central District Meeting
Northpark Church, Meridian

Come learn more about Mentoring New Members and Future Leaders, Scholarship Opportunities, Genealogy, Retirement Issues, and Educational Trends. Please complete and mail the enclosed Registration Form by February 10.

WANTED: OUTSTANDING CHAPTER PROGRAM IDEAS

In late August, plans were under way to develop and post on the Zeta State website a Chapter Program Bank whose purpose is to share outstanding programs among chapters in our state. Because of Hurricane Katrina, those plans were temporarily put on hold. Now that we are in a more stabilized situation, we are asking that each chapter submit at least one successful program idea to Zeta State First Vice President and Program of Work Committee Chairman Jeanette Reinike by May 1, 2006. One of the items requested on the chapter first vice president's biennial report form was a brief description of one of your chapter's most successful programs. It is likely that the program described on that form can be tweaked and further detailed so that other chapters can adapt it for their use. Please complete the form and send it as an attachment to jfreinike@yahoo.com. If e-mail is not available, send your chapter's program idea to Jeanette Reinike, 2936 Salina Cove, Hernando, MS 38632. The Zeta State Program of Work Committee believes this to be a practical idea that can benefit chapters throughout our state. This will be a wonderful gift for your 2006-2008 chapter officers.

Zeta State Programs Form
(email to jfreinike@yahoo.com)

CHAPTER:
PRESIDENT/PROGRAM CHAIRMAN:
SAMPLE PROGRAM FORM
PROGRAM CATEGORY:
____ Professional ____ Personal
____ Societal ____ Fellowship
PROGRAM TOPIC:
PROGRAM TITLE:
PROGRAM PRESENTATION
METHOD(S):
BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE PROGRAM:
(Materials attached)
Purposes of the program:



Stepping Ahead.....

by Lynn Holliday, President

I want to say a “big” thank you to our membership for the sharing and loving commitment you have shown to our sisters along the Gulf Coast. We are truly sisters in the sense that when times get hard, we are there for one another. Katrina has made us closer and more closely knit than ever before. The year 2005 not only brought the realization of what the true value of friendship means but also showed us that we are visible not just in Mississippi but throughout the world. Cards, school supplies, gift cards, and financial donations have poured in from across the nation, showing the concern of our Delta Kappa Gamma sisters. Our membership is truly blessed!

2006! Will the year go as fast as 2005? What will we achieve? When will we get there? Where will we go from here? How will we take time for ourselves? These are but a few of the questions I know that we asked one another January 1. One answer to the question “How can we take time for ourselves” is... *Participate in Delta Kappa Gamma*. Zeta State members have the opportunity to participate above the chapter level in many ways. For starters, in **February**, committees meet at Headquarters and The Executive Board meets at Copiah Lincoln Community College. **March** brings us the Legislative Day activities where you may meet your representative or senator and relate your concerns of education and its effect on the children of Mississippi. The District Meetings are also scheduled. The District Directors and their Assistants along with Karen Rhodes, the Directors’ Coordinator, have worked hard to bring to you not only a well planned and comprehensive day of workshops and activities but also a day of fellowship, business and new ideas relating to us personally and professionally. Please plan to attend both these activities to lend your support and knowledge of the activities involving key educators.

Make plans in **June** to attend the Leadership Retreat at Lake Tiak O’Khata. This two-day event revolves



Lynn Holliday, President - Zeta State

around the membership as a whole as well as new officers and chapter committee chairmen. This would also be an opportune time for chapters to hold their planning session for the new biennium. Come and learn more about your organization

and become involved *Above and Beyond* the Chapter Level. **July** not only brings on the plans of a new school year but also the International Convention in San Diego. Members worldwide will come and participate in the works of the organization. Truly, it becomes a reality of belonging to this great Society when you attend this international gathering!

Our Theme: *Above and Beyond: Stepping Ahead in Leadership, Membership, and Mentorship* involves three aspects of our organization. A vital part of this Society is *Membership*. Our members must be active, motivated and limitless in promoting The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. Membership carries responsibility as well as honor. We must commit ourselves to taking an active part in programs, projects, and organizational activities. Membership offers a lifelong association with other educators across the state, country and even world. In short, what I’m trying to say here is, make the most of what is offered to you, invite other key educators to join and enjoy the fellowship!

STAYING POWER

By Sharon Wheeler, Beta Chapter
Chairman, Zeta State Professional Affairs Committee

Are we finally getting through? We must be doing something right! When asked by the Gallup Youth Survey (2005), 1,000 teenagers aged 13 – 17 selected teaching as one of their top ten career choices. For girls, it was the top choice. How gratifying to see teens valuing the role of the teacher as a career option right up there with that of doctor, lawyer, business, engineer, etc.

With this good news, combined with stepped up teacher recruitment programs (signing bonuses, mortgage assistance, tuition reimbursement, etc.) and alternative paths to teaching certification, surely we can meet the demands for teachers that increased student enrollment and the “graying” of the baby boom generation of teachers headed for retirement bliss present. Right?... Wrong!

The statistics remain dire. About one out of every five new teachers leaves teaching within three years, and almost 40% are gone within five years. Further compounding the problem is the notion of “migration”, or leaving one school or district to go to another. Younger teachers are more likely to change schools than older teachers (U.S. Department of Education, 2004).

The cost of this “revolving door” of the U.S. teaching workforce (4% of national civilian employment) is staggering. Conservative estimates of the cost of teacher turnover conducted by the Texas State Board for Educator Certification in 2000 comes in at a whopping \$329 million per year, with alternate estimations reaching as high as \$2.1 billion per year. Analysis of 1999-2000 data from the National Center for Education Statistics Student and Staffing Survey, conducted by Richard M. Ingersoll of the University of Pennsylvania, estimates Mississippi’s loss at close to \$39 million per year.

These alarming statistics and the resultant impact on student performance have prompted researchers to go beyond population and retirement demographics to identify why teachers are not staying on the job, particularly younger teachers, who view themselves as committed and their choice of profession as a “lifelong choice” (Public Agenda, 2000). Prevalent among the reasons were dissatisfaction with salary, administrative support, student discipline and motivation, input into policy, lack of parental involvement and success in the classroom.

This latest research has under girded the importance of institutions giving new teachers the support they require through appropriate teaching assignments (not the most challenging students in the school!), formalized mentorships, structured opportunities for collegial interaction, effective discipline procedures, innovative ways to involve parents and the provision of resources for success in the classroom.

Prospective teachers can “arm” themselves with some very pointed questions as they investigate opportunities when conducting their job search. No matter what the type of school, large or small, urban or rural, public or private, they should ask, “What are the types of support systems offered to new teachers in your school or district?” The answers they receive will have a major impact on their staying power!

...With a Little Help from our Friends

by Linda Lightsey

West Harrison County and Hancock County, Mississippi’s southwestern-most area, and the home of forty-three of Alpha Upsilon’s fifty-two members, was ground zero for Hurricane Katrina. Twenty members received monies from the International and Zeta State Emergency Funds. Seventeen of the twenty sustained total loss of homes as did the two women who were initiated in October 2005. In the storm’s aftermath telephone and e-mail communication ranged from difficult to impossible. Yet within three weeks or so, all members had been located and deemed physically safe. By October 29 the chaos had sufficiently lessened to allow us to have our first meeting of the year. Despite the lack of meeting facilities and the condition of their homes, approximately thirty-five members were in attendance, with four of those traveling from as far away as Florence, Canton, Madison, and Meridian. Nor was this a fluke: Our December meeting was just as well attended by both the displaced and the locals. As they remain steadfast in their commitment to each other and to our Society, the women in Alpha Upsilon reflect the true spirit of Delta Kappa Gamma.

Less than a month after Katrina’s visit, Dr. LeAnna Walton, Psi State (Georgia), Southeast Regional Director, 1998-2000, E-mailed us to learn of our status. When she knew the extent of members’ personal losses, she mailed us a check and Fed-Exed “50 lbs of clothing...and 35 pairs of great shoes” for members who had lost virtually everything. Alpha Upsilon had already determined that financial circumstances would

not cause us a loss of membership, and LeAnna's contribution made it easy for that determination to become reality. Indeed, her generosity enabled Alpha Upsilon to pay chapter, state, and international dues in full. The clothes and shoes she sent were distributed at the October meeting. These were followed by seven more boxes of winter clothing; most items still had the tags attached. It is impossible for us to tell LeAnna what her love and support have meant to us in these still-difficult days.

LeAnna Walton was not alone in showing her concern for Alpha Upsilon. Delta Epsilon Chapter, Chi State (California) reached out to members who lost not only their homes but also their teaching and classroom materials. This thirty-five-member chapter sent Alpha Upsilon gift cards and a check with instructions that the money be used for those who had experienced substantial losses both personally and professionally.

Delta Epsilon, another Chi State chapter, also reached out to us by sending a check—their instructions? Use these funds to help lift the spirits of the women so devastated by Katrina. Monies sent by these two California chapters were disbursed directly to members at the December and January meetings.

Theta Chapter, Beta Alpha State (New Hampshire), sent thirty cloth book bags stuffed with books and story-appropriate stuffed animals to one of our kindergarten teachers whose school was completely destroyed by the storm.

Members of Alpha Upsilon continue to be humbled by and amazed at the outpouring of caring and support that have come directly to our chapter. The thank you notes we've written and the calls we've made to express our thanks to LeAnna and to the members of Delta Epsilon, Delta Beta, and Theta Chapters cannot begin to express how overwhelmed and grateful we are. Our Founders established as Purpose 1 of our Society "[the uniting of] women educators...in genuine spiritual fellowship." Our chapter members continue to experience firsthand that "genuine spiritual fellowship."

...from the Music Committee.

from Linda Hollingsworth

The Zeta State Music committee met October 29, 2005 to prepare music for all three district meetings coming up in March. Chapter representatives from throughout the 3 districts will be helping the music committee with each meeting. Our thanks to each person who said "yes" to fulfilling the rolls of pianists, songleaders, and soloists. We encourage chapter members from across the state to be in attendance at their district meeting.

...from the Research Committee,

by Faye Barham

The Research Committee has designed and implemented a three-page survey requesting all kinds of information, from whether the Delta Kappa Gamma member is a classroom teacher to whether she wants her pin returned to her chapter when she dies. The results so far are interesting, but very incomplete. To date, some 650 members across the state have submitted their filled in surveys, all of which have been added to the database. However, that number does not represent even half our total membership in Zeta. Therefore, the 2006-2007 Research Committee asks that chapter presidents make a concerted effort to follow up to see that all members of their chapter complete surveys so that we can all be represented. Each chapter president should have been sent a letter and a survey instrument to copy and give to all members of her chapter who have not yet completed a survey. If some members of that chapter have already filled out the survey, the list of those was included also.

In addition, we recommend that chapter presidents include a copy of the survey instrument in the New Member Packets given to new members at initiation.

The purpose of the database is to identify member talents, participation, and interests, as well as identify those persons interested in serving Delta Kappa Gamma above the chapter level. However, we are also seeking information about where our Zeta founders are buried. Anyone having that information can call Faye Barham at 601-919-1178.

Please help us continue the good work started by the Research Committee last year and update this database.

...from the Personal Growth and Services Committee,

by Becky Rhinehart

Delta Kappa Gamma is a Society in which members can enrich their personal and professional lives, develop a genuine spiritual fellowship with educators worldwide, and be recognized for their capabilities.

Zeta State's PG&S Committee wants members to participate in these activities this biennium by participating in 100% chapter participation in the Numeracy and Literacy Project, 100% of chapters to honor a Woman of Distinction at the 2006 State Convention, 100% of the chapters having a representative at one meeting above the chapter level, and having 175 state members attend the Zeta State Leadership Training. See you there. Our committee has prizes for chapters meeting the goals of attendance and participation.

The Saga of 1558 Books and 24 Schools

by Virginia Ann Butler

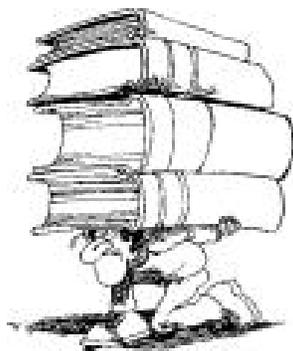
The saga began because I am a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, an organization of children's writers and illustrators, and have a Hattiesburg address. The authors and illustrators who produce books for children and young adults wanted to show their concern and support for those who had been displaced by Katrina. While I was still without electricity and going back and forth to Oak Grove Library (near Hattiesburg) to use the Internet, I got a request from SCBWI to distribute comfort kits to evacuee children in shelters in our area. By the time my limited communication could respond, the comfort kits had all been distributed, and most of the children had been moved to more permanent quarters. Project Manager, Kim Turrisi, said the best they could do was send some books to the libraries of schools who had taken in the children.

Knowing Alpha Gamma Chapter members, I said we could find where the children had gone. At our next meeting, we made a list of twenty-four schools affected by Katrina and serviced in some way by our members, thinking SCBWI would send a few books for each school. I sent the numbers and grade levels to Kim Turrisi who assured me books would be in the mail.

Little did I know! Eighteen boxes – 12 ½ x 12 ½ x 15 – arrived one Saturday morning, stuffed to the bursting with books ranging from board books to 400-page YA novels. They were followed the next week with four more boxes.

My Delta Kappa Gamma husband brought in a folding table, unpacked the books and filled the table and every flat space in my all-purpose room. Then he counted – 1558 books!

Alpha Gamma members came one Sunday afternoon to sort. Temptations were many: the temptation to find a seat and sit down and read; the temptation to hog all the best books for one's own school; the temptation to pull the autographed books to sell at auction to increase our grant-in-aid for young teachers. All temptations



were surmounted as the sorters virtuously made twenty-four stacks, packed twenty-four boxes, and taped on twenty-four labels.

Deliveries were the most fun. Librarians in the assorted schools did not know the books were coming. How excited they were as they began to pull out books from authors whose names they recognized! Some said they had lost books because children had them checked out when Katrina damaged their homes. Others had children who, even before the storm, had no books or very few in their homes and were dependent on the school library for reading material. A teacher found a special edition of *The Secret Garden* she wanted to use in her class. The stories go on.

Networking sometimes gets a negative connotation as though its purpose is to promote oneself. In this case networking between Alpha Gamma Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma and the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators put 1558 books into 24 schools. Those with good math skills might try to estimate how many children will check them out. Those with good visual imagery might prefer to picture one of the children getting out a book, finding a quiet corner, stepping into the world of the book, and taking a mental trip to a place that is either real or imaginary. Either way, it puts a whole new perspective on networking.

The Importance of Membership

from Marsha Cummings

Your involvement in Delta Kappa Gamma is imperative at all levels in our organization. Your work is important in the life of our Society. Without your involvement in increasing our membership our organization suffers. The membership committee wants each member to mature as a contributor to, and a benefactor of, the Society. Organizing to provide the leadership for Zeta State and your local chapter will require both careful planning and persistent monitoring. Remember these KEY factors as we all strive to gain stronger MEMBERSHIP in Delta Kappa Gamma.

M - Mentoring
 E - Encouragement
 M - Memorable
 B - Belonging
 E - Energetic
 R - Recruitment
 S - Sisterhood
 H - Helpful
 I - Involvement
 P - Participation

INITIATES JULY 1-DECEMBER 8, 2005

WELCOME!!!

Alpha—Sandra Murphy
 Beta—Kim Corley
 Eta—Bonnie Anderson, Joyce Newell
 Iota—Malanie Schnadelback
 Lambda—Karen Jeffcoat, Castlen King, Polly Spivey, Cynthia Venuti
 Mu—Cindy Williamson
 Nu—Lynn Chamblee, Gloria Alford, Jimmie Nazary, Barbara Fulton
 Xi—Ruth Gregory, Carolyn Cortines
 Pi—Tammie Brewer, Marlynn Martin, Suzanne Conquest
 Sigma—Betsy Ramsdale, Charlotte Pearson
 Tau—Ann DeFoore, Paula Ray, Eloise Richardson
 Upsilon—Angela Trimble, Lenola Tennisson
 Omega—Dana Newson
 Alpha Beta—Debbie Nobles
 Alpha Gamma—Kaylene Behm, Deedre Coll, Renee Evans, Karen Hill, Jeannie Lockley, Aletta Price, Crystal Shaw, Brenda Thomas
 Alpha Delta—Trudy Pattberg, Beth Pharr, Wendy Smith, Renee Triplett
 Alpha Zeta—Pamela Wattes
 Alpha Sigma—Patsy Reese, Stella Wear, Mary Jane Morgan, Sonya Swafford, Stephanie Upchurch, Ann Morgan, Cathy Dickerson

Congratulations

Share the Future Committee
from Carol Rigby

The Share the Future Committee met on October 22, 2005. The clarification, of the guidelines for The Red Rose Award, was discussed at length and are presented in this [Zeta Data](#).

At each of the three District meetings in the Spring, the Share the Future Committee will have items available for auction. One large item and several smaller items will be auctioned to raise money for the funding of Headquarters.

Our present expense of renting the current headquarters apartment has generated interest and consideration into the possibility of finding another location (perhaps in a Jackson area college) to house the headquarters. This proposal will be discussed at the Executive Board meeting in February.

The Red Rose Award

The Red Rose Award is a recognition program designed to increase the visibility of Delta Kappa Gamma in local chapter areas and focus on promoting the work of women leaders in education...those whose careers are education as well as those who advance the cause of education in other fields.

In an effort to clarify some confusion about the guidelines for the Red Rose Award, the Share the Future Committee has revised guidelines 2, 4 and 7. The following is a complete set

of the guidelines, with the revisions.

WHAT IS THE RED ROSE AWARD?

A recognition program designed to carry out Zeta Stat Goal #5.

The Zeta State Organization will actively promote and recognize participation and achievement of women in visible leadership roles.

- Each chapter in Zeta State is encouraged to award The Red Rose Award annually.
- The recipient of the award **must** be a **non-member** of the Society. She shall be a woman leader residing and/or working in the chapter area whose accomplishments have benefited education and the status of women in educational leadership roles.
- The chapter shall develop specific criteria for eligibility and a procedure for nomination and selection of the award recipient.
- A publicity release about the Society and the award recipient is to be submitted to the local news media as soon as possible after making the award. **Pictures with the written article must be presented with the Report of the award.** You may use your chapter newsletter to meet the news article requirement.
- A uniform red rose pin, which may be purchased from Zeta State, is to be awarded to each recipient. Other items of recognition (certificate, plaque, etc.) are left to the discretion of the chapter.
- The chapter president or a designated person should fill out and send The Red Rose award form to the Chairman of the Share The Future Committee by the yearly deadline in order to be recognized at District and Convention meetings.

The deadline is February 1st of each year. Only awards actually presented to the recipient by February 1st deadline will be recognized.

RATIONALE FOR THE AWARD:

To increase the visibility of Delta Kappa Gamma in local chapter areas and focus on promoting the work of women leaders in education....those whose careers are education as well as those who advance the cause of education in other fields.

ZETA STATE OFFICERS' TRAINING, by Sharon Enzor.

The first Zeta State Officers' Training was held June 20 - 21, 2005 at Lake Tiak O' Khata near Louisville. This was a bold move on the part of the Zeta State Leadership Development Committee, chaired by Sandra McKiernon and the Zeta State Leaders of 2003-2005. The leadership training involved a careful review of the position descriptions of each of the state officers and the policies and procedures manual developed during the 2003-2005 biennium. Sarah Smith reviewed the Zeta State Budget and discussed each of the Zeta State Funds. Time was given for the Officers to establish goals and make plans for the upcoming biennium. Zeta State Officers left the training sessions equipped with tools to make them more effective during the 2005-2007 biennium.

**Zeta State Legislative Day
Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
New Capitol Rotunda
Tuesday, March 14, 2006
9:00 – 12:00**

Join members from around the state for an energizing,
educational, fun-filled day. You will also have the opportunity
to visit with your state representatives and let them
know which issues are important to you.