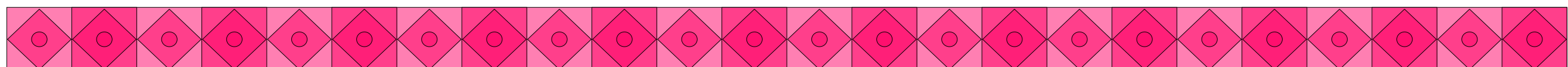


THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

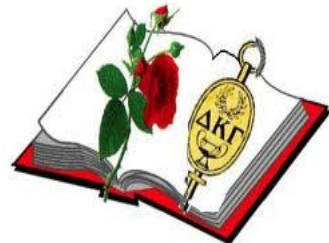
Alpha Epsilon State
Alpha Gamma Chapter



Mission Statement: *The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.*

Program: **HAMSTRA GARDENS/OFFICER INDUCTION**
2015-2016, Issue 5
June 6, 2016

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2016, 10 A.M.
Hamstra Gardens
12028 N 200 W, Wheatfield, IN

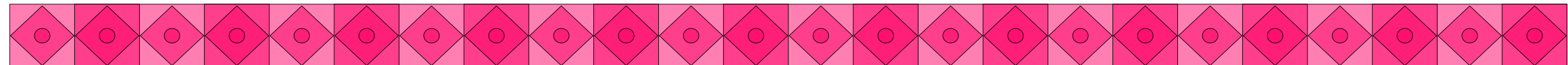


* **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** *
* Tour an entire estate with gardens, paths, ponds, bridges, and waterfalls---hidden in a cornfield *
* in Wheatfield, Indiana. These gardens have been the setting of weddings, outdoor concerts, *
* photo shoots, and has even been highlighted in Chicagoland Gardening Magazine. You won't *
* want to miss this program. From the gardens we will go to Phyllis Schaper's home for induction *
* of officers and lunch. Her address is 9216 Aspen Ct., DeMotte, IN. *
* *
* Parking at Hamstra Gardens is on the west side. There is a sign for the gardens on Highway *
* 10. Coming from DeMotte it is on your left; coming from Rt. 49 it will be on your right after you *
* go past Wheatfield. *
* *
* This will be a great finale to a great year with DKG sisters! *

APRIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Alpha Gamma members met at the Valparaiso Public Library in April for our fourth meeting. The theme of our meeting was "Advancing Key Women Educators Through Programs Featuring Legislation and Education". This theme was very appropriate as the election of our new officers was one of the highlights of the evening. Our speaker, Roni Embry, met us for dinner and shared some legislative tidbits with us. We also had our state liaison, Anna Padberg, visit our chapter that evening and share some of what she does at the state level, including her position as Alpha Epsilon State Music Chair.

VISION: LEADING WOMEN EDUCATORS IMPACTING EDUCATION WORLDWIDE



President's Pen

President's Pen

I can't believe it has been almost four years since I wrote my first President's Pen. As I wrote in my first President's Pen, this organization supports and involves educators, and that is why these last four years have been so special and important to me. I was right in predicting that we would have a fantastic biennium and it came true because of all the exceptional women in our chapter, and especially the women on the executive board. Thank you!

It is an exciting time for Alpha Gamma. This year we are celebrating the induction of a new group of officers. We are also proud to be 40 members strong. We have accomplished many things the last several years, including supporting Mercy Ngetich from Kenya and our Early Career Educators. We inducted several new faces to our chapter and celebrated cherished members. We learned many new things at our programs and along the way we did all of this with plenty of fun and fellowship.

My role in service will continue as I serve as First Vice-President. I am looking forward to this new position and to what the future brings for our chapter.

My best to all of you,

Olga

New Officers

In April, we elected our officers for the next biennium. There are 3 people joining the board for the first time. We welcome them to the board and congratulate them on their new positions!

Patrice Brooks is our new president. She will be our leader for the next two years, and you can "Get to Know Patrice" in the next article!

Marci Johnson will serve as second vice-president. Among her duties is keeping our directory updated. Marci graduated from Valparaiso High School and Indiana University. She has been teaching for 11 years, most recently teaching 5th graders at Northview Elementary in Valparaiso. She enjoys playing volleyball and softball. She feels fortunate that her family members (mom, dad, brother, sister-in-law, niece, and nephew) live in Valparaiso and she relishes the time she spends with them.

Karyn Wenger is our new corresponding secretary. She will edit the newsletter and handle other correspondence authorized by the president. Karyn graduated from Indiana University with a degree in fashion design and business. She returned to school and earned a master's degree in art education. She has completed her 5th year of teaching in Valparaiso, teaching 4 years at Parkview and Memorial Elementary Schools. This year she taught art at Ben Franklin Middle School. Some of her hobbies are sewing and being outside.

Making Impressions for the Future!

Get To Know Patrice Brooks

Patrice Brooks

I grew up in Hobart and graduated from Hobart High School, attended IU Northwest and graduated in the spring of 1981. My teaching career began at Hebron Elementary School, where I taught 4th grade, being hired for the year for a maternity leave. That temporary assignment led to almost 32 years of teaching and administrative work at Hebron. During those years I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to have various positions and eventually become specialized in the area of literacy instruction, for both students and teachers. At various times I taught half-day Kindergarten (4 years), Title I Reading (11 years), and was Administrative Assistant/ Assistant to the Principal (15 years). In that position, I was in charge of writing grants and overseeing the Title I and Gifted and Talented Programs, was Testing Coordinator, and Administrative Representative for all Special Education conferences. During those years I would split my day between working in the office and doing the classroom work. When asked what my specific duties were during that time, I would just say that any job that no one else wanted to do or be in charge of, they assigned to me!

A special opportunity came my way in 1999 when our superintendent wanted to incorporate a Reading Recovery Program into our curriculum. (Reading Recovery is an intense 1:1 program for lower achieving 1st grade students to improve their reading and writing skills). I began the training in the summer of 1999, and started working with first grade students that fall. That led to 11 years of working with 1st grade students, with some of the most rewarding (and sometimes frustrating) experiences of my career.

Those experiences led me then to being trained in 2008 as the Balanced Literacy Coach / Coordinator for our school for K-3 classrooms. (12 area schools participated in this training through Purdue University). I worked in a 1st grade classroom that year, team-teaching with the classroom teacher to implement strategies involved in teaching Balanced Literacy. During that year I also did professional development sessions with small groups to introduce them to the program, and assist them in setting up their classrooms for instruction. In 2009 I began more intensive work with individual teachers in their classrooms, along with the small group professional development sessions.

At the end of 2009 I had the opportunity to retire from the Corporation after 29 years of teaching. I continued to work part-time as a "Literacy Consultant" for another 2 ½ years. My official retirement date was in the fall of 2012.

My family was very supportive of me during all of my years of teaching and continual training. I have two sons, Bob (45), and Jeff (43), both living in Valparaiso. Bob is a strength and conditioning coach at Valparaiso University. He has been a personal trainer, managed health clubs, and has a Masters' Degree in Sports Management. Jeff is married to Brooke, they have two sons, Brenden 5 ½, and Bryce 18 months. Jeff is the principal at Hebron Middle School, and Brooke is an Occupational Therapist, specializing in hand therapy, at Athletico in Valparaiso.

After living in Hebron for many years, I moved to Crown Point, and am now living in Valparaiso. I do some babysitting, and also enjoy cooking, gardening, and reading. I make frequent trips to Michigan and New Orleans to visit relatives.

I was completely surprised when approached about running for President of Delta Kappa Gamma. I appreciate the encouragement the membership committee and officers (especially Olga) gave me when making the decision. I am looking forward to the challenge that the office holds, along with working with an amazing group of women educators.



Upcoming Events

ALPHA GAMMA'S

2015/2016 MEETING DATES

Wednesday, June 8, 2016 / 10:00 a.m. / Gardening / Hamstra Gardens, Wheatfield, IN
Lunch, meeting and officer installation at Phyllis Schaper's house following the program.

COUNCIL 1, STATE, and INTERNATIONAL

DATES TO REMEMBER

June 18, 2016 - CCOT Training (north)
June 23, 2016 - CCOT Training (south)
April 28-30, 2017 - State Convention, Radisson Indianapolis Airport

Please continue to collect your spare change over the summer.
Our Change for Change will be used for Society and local initiatives.

CURRENT PROJECTS

- * Change for Change – Supporting Educational Projects
- * Opportunity Enterprises Educational Project
- * SEE: Supporting Early Career Educators
- * Book Collection – Supporting State Convention
- * Schools For Africa – UNICEF

Society Purpose: To stimulate the personal and professional growth of members and to encourage their participation in appropriate programs of action

2016 International Convention

LET'S GO!!
July 5 - July 9 (2016)
Nashville, TN
Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center

Visit our website for chapter information as well as information and links pertaining to our organization
<http://www.dkgalphagamma.org>

- Copies of our newsletters are archived under the Newsletters tab.
- Meetings and Events
- Links to educational sites

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