

Delta Kappa Gamma

ALPHA IOTA STATE PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER



*Dashing through the snow
In a one-horse open sleigh!
O'er the fields we go
Laughing all the way.*

*Bells on bobtails ring
Making spirits bright.
What fun it is to laugh and sing
A sleighing song tonight!*

Believe it or not, **Jingle Bells**, one of the most famous American Christmas songs, was originally written for Thanksgiving!

The author and composer of **Jingle Bells** was a minister named James Pierpoint who composed the song in 1857 for children celebrating his Boston Sunday School Thanksgiving. The song was so popular that it was repeated at Christmas, and indeed **Jingle Bells** has been reprised ever since. The essence of a traditional Christmas is captured in the lyrics of **Jingle Bells** and the sound effects using the bells have become synonymous with the arrival of Father Christmas or Santa Claus to the delight of children of all ages!

I wish you much happiness during the holiday season. My first personal event will be a Thanksgiving cruise on our boat and docking at a fish camp for a Thanksgiving Buffet. My second will be my annual Christmas Tea that I host for my mother's old friends and many of my new friends. Several DKG members will attend. Christmas Day will involve another boat cruise and lunch on an island in Lake Tohopekaliga. We always have a quiet New Year's Eve and Day. I make the traditional southern corn bread, black-eyed peas and hog jowls to bring us good luck for the year. As you can tell, I have an eclectic group of celebrations! Please let me know what you do for the holidays. Enthusiastically yours,



Nominations



Activate your Nominating Committee. It is not too soon to begin planning for a slate of officers for 2012-2014.

Are you mentoring someone to succeed you? It is easier to find officers if we share information about the job and even let them work with us on tasks. I remember how daunting my first year as Chapter President was! Although new officers do not assume duties until July 1, your slate should be in place soon after January 1.

Important Dates

Spring PAC

Lexington Lansing HotelMarch 17, 2012

Alpha Iota State Convention

Radisson Kalamazoo CenterMay 4-6, 2012

International Convention

NYC, NYJuly 24-28, 2012

2012 National Legislative Seminar

Comfort Inn Pentagon City, Arlington, VAMarch 18-21

2012 Fall Conference Holiday Inn

MuskegonOctober 19-20

2013 Alpha Iota State Conference

Doubletree Hotel-Riverfront, Bay City.....May 3-5

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Fall Conference: Nurturing Early Career Educators

Many thanks to all Chapter Presidents who made the extra effort to attend the Fall Conference in Lansing! YOU are responsible for the strength and growth of Alpha Iota State. If YOU had not attended, we would not have decided on sites for future conferences. If YOU had not attended, our fundraiser for Funding Our Purposes would not have been successful. If YOU had not attended, your chapter would not have been represented at the Coordinating Council Roundtables. If YOU had not encouraged attendance of members who are actively teaching, we would not have been able to recognize them. I asked that our members be 212` members, giving the extra effort, the extra time, the extra resources. YOU did it!

The Flint Area Coordinating Council led by Delores DiGiacomo hosted the conference with style. Everyone appreciated goodie bags, table favors, and door prizes! Patty Baldwin and Sandy Mason and Alpha Lambda Chapter handled the Registration Table efficiently. Did you notice the lovely flower arrangement sent to Patty by Dr. Baldwin? The "happy face" said it all. Breakout session presidors and presenters offered us new information and ideas to take home to our chapters. You had an opportunity to learn a little more about your State President when Gamma Beta Chapter hosted the Olive Roast on Friday night.

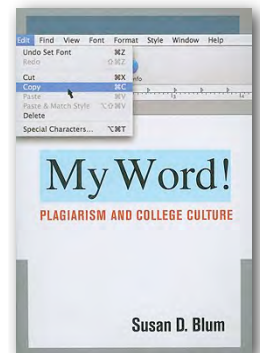
2010 Educators Award Book

**My Word!: Plagiarism and College Culture by Susan D. Blum,
Comstock Publishing Associates, Ithaca, NY, March 2009**

"Classroom Cheats Turn to Computers." "Student Essays on Internet Offer Challenge to Teachers." "Faking the Grade." Headlines such as these have been blaring the alarming news of an epidemic of plagiarism and cheating in American colleges: more than 75 percent of students admit to having cheated; 68 percent admit to cutting and pasting material from the Internet without citation.

Professors are reminded almost daily that many of today's college students operate under an entirely new set of assumptions about originality and ethics. Practices that even a decade ago would have been regarded almost universally as academically dishonest are now commonplace. Is this development an indication of dramatic shifts in education and the larger culture? In a book that dismisses hand-wringing in favor of a rich account of how students actually think and act, Susan D. Blum discovers two cultures that exist, often uneasily, side by side in the classroom.

Relying extensively on interviews conducted by students with students, *My Word!* presents the voices of today's young adults as they muse about their daily activities, their challenges, and the meanings of their college lives. (continued on page 3)



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2010 Educators Award Book (continued)


Outcomes-based secondary education, the steeply rising cost of college tuition, and an economic climate in which higher education is valued for its effect on future earnings above all else: These factors each have a role to play in explaining why students might pursue good grades by any means necessary. These incentives have arisen in the same era as easily accessible ways to cheat electronically and with almost intolerable pressures that result in many students being diagnosed as clinically depressed during their transition from childhood to adulthood.

However, Blum suggests, the real problem of academic dishonesty arises primarily from a lack of communication between two distinct cultures within the university setting. On one hand, professors and administrators regard plagiarism as a serious academic crime, an ethical transgression, even a sin against an ethos of individualism and originality.

Students, on the other hand, revel in sharing, in multiplicity, in accomplishment at any cost. Although this book is unlikely to reassure readers who hope that increasing rates of plagiarism can be reversed with strongly worded warnings on the first day of class, *My Word!* opens a dialogue between professors and their students that may lead to true mutual comprehension and serve as the basis for an alignment between student practices and their professors' expectations.

Schools For Africa

International Projects of the Society



One of the current international DKG projects is "Schools For Africa". It is the first official international project of the Society. With our support, many African children will have access to a quality basic education. The project has special focus on education for girls, orphans and other vulnerable children. The funds will help train teachers and build or upgrade schools. There is more information on the website, www.schoolsforafrica.com.

How can we help? We can make monetary donations to the U. S. Fund for UNICEF, not through materials or money sent directly to the countries and schools. That way the money will go to where it is needed most. A donation form is on the last page of the Schools For Africa brochure posted on the Society website. (Go to www.dkg.org, select "Educational Excellence Committee Projects and Programs", then click on the Schools For Africa image and map at the bottom of the page.) Using this form helps UNICEF and the Society keep records of our donations.

Individuals, as well as chapters, may contribute money. Chapters are encouraged to raise funds through member collections, sales, bottle and can drives and other chapter projects. Every dollar can go a long way to help the children. Please consider making a contribution to this worthwhile project. Thank you.

*Liz VanWestenburg Alpha Iota State
Program Chair*

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Biennial Reports

Biennial Reports are due February 1. Forms are online at the International and Alpha Iota State websites. You will begin to receive reminders in January. Reports due to State Chairs by February 1, 2012 are President, Program, Membership, Necrology, World Fellowship, Communication and Publicity, Finance, and Scholarship.

Respective State Chairs will submit their reports to International by March 1, 2012. Let's strive for 100% participation. It is another way that we can be 212` members.



Personal Growth and Services

Recently, I was looking though a book by the writer Perry Tanksley from Mississippi, as he gave "thanks for the memories." This is the season of giving thanks for those who have come into our lives, our health, our children, and our friendships. As the Personal Growth and Service Chair, ask some of the members to share about the things they are thankful for in their lives as well as in the DKG chapter. Here are some thoughts to share...

Thanksgiving

Dorian Taylor has stated 'I would rather appreciate the things I do not have than to have the things I do not appreciate. If you can't be thankful for what you receive, be thankful for what you escape.'

Blessings

"Don't stop with counting your blessings; think also of the misfortunes which you may have had but didn't." --Anonymous

Giving

"You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give." – Kahil Gibran.

*Marilyn J. Hopkins – Chair
Personal Growth and Services*



A Reminder

Please send three (3) copies of your chapter's yearbook to me by the December 1st due date. You may email your yearbook, submit hard copies, send copies on three CDs or direct me to your yearbook on your chapter's website. If I need a password, please volunteer it. Please also send 1 completed copy of the current evaluation form available on the state website.

The details and the checklist for evaluation are available on the state's website at "Yearbook". The committee is excited to see what you have created!

Although yearbooks will be accepted at anytime, only those received by December 1st will be considered for the 2011-2012 Yearbook Awards.

*Thank you,
Sally Garrison*

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Alpha Iota State Coordinating Councils

There has been a lot of activity with the Alpha Iota State Coordinating Councils. During the Fall Workshop at the Lansing Lexington Hotel, Dr. Gedy Love and Julie Usher invited all Coordinating Councils to meet and plan their events. Most of the Coordinating Councils were represented and much work was accomplished. Some Councils finalized plans for upcoming events and other Councils began their planning sessions for spring activities.

Gedy and Julie were invited to attend the 2011 Great Southwest Coordinating Council Annual Event in Lawrence; the Cascades Council event of Fun, Fitness, Food, and Fellowship in Jackson; and the Northern Lights Coordinating Council fall activity in North Branch.

The 2011 Great Southwest Coordinating Council Annual Event in Lawrence was held on October 27th at the Van Buren ISD Technology Center. The students at the Technology Center catered for this event. All enjoyed creative hors d'oeuvres and "cocktails" during the silent auction. Dinner was served and was elegant and delicious. After dinner, the Deep Fried Pickle Project entertained us with their music and fun lyrics. The band had us clapping and jumping with them. Smiles filled the room and it was a wonderful evening of fellowship and fund raising.

The Cascades Council held their annual event at the Cascades Manor House in Jackson on November 5th. The theme was Fun, Food, Fitness,

and Fellowship. The program was set up into "four corners" in which projects were taught and shared. Participants made a flower pin and a holiday ornament, enjoyed recipe ideas from a local caterer, and learned to stretch and tone. The participating chapters brought many items for silent auction. Luncheon was delicious and everyone had a great time.

The Northern Lights activity on November 12th was cancelled. We had planned to meet at the Lumber Jack Restaurant in North Branch and continue to Tanger Outlet Mall next door for holiday shopping. It was a great idea, but reservations were too few. We look forward to their next activity.

Gedy and Julie want to thank everyone for all their efforts in making their Coordinating Councils so successful and so much fun. We look forward to attending your events as they are scheduled throughout the year. Also, we want to remind you that we are always willing to help you out as you plan your events.

Dr. Gedy Love, Mrs. Julie Usher

Across	13. ONE
	12. OLIVE
	11. BOSTON
	10. PIERPOINT
	9. FEBRUARY
	8. AFRICA
	7. PICKLE
	6. LANSING
	5. MONETARY
	4. THREE
	3. THAT
Down	1. FIVE
	2. BLUM
	3. THANKSGIVING
	4. TAYLOR
	7. PICKLE
	9. FEBRUARY

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Chapter President Updates

Delta

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Kathy Saunders
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Alpha Epsilon

Jennifer Irish
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Alpha Kappa

Doris Coles

Beta Kappa

Chapter President
(no longer a co-president)
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Beta Chi

Now Debbie Conti-Newman
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Beta Eta

Drop Melissa McDermid
Leave Dorene Finer in place
as co-president
Add
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*Submitted by Kathy Taylor,
Corresponding Secretary*



Teachers Helping Another Teacher

Teachers Helping Another Teacher (THAT) Program is a proven, recommended program for early-career educator support that originated in the California State Organization. The Excellence in Education Committee has recommended this program as a model for chapters across the Society.

The program encourages members/chapters to be creative in support of early-career educators as many are already doing. Each chapter is to keep a record of the hours members spend with their support for early-career educators and money spent for this support. A (phony) check representing the total amount of hours will be presented to a government official in Washington, D.C., in the summer of 2012 to show how much our Society has saved them because of our support.

Please download record keeping forms from either the International or Alpha Iota State website. In looking at your projects, I see that all chapters are philanthropic with time and money. This is the opportunity to receive 212` credit for what we do.

Early Career Educators will be spotlighted at the International Convention in NYC. Do you have members with 1-5 years teaching experience? Ask them to make a one-minute video about why they value their DKG membership. Send the DVD to Dr. Souders by January 1, 2012. The videos will be shown during general meetings at the convention.

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Communications with Chapter Members

Do you sometimes feel overwhelmed with the responsibilities of the presidency of your chapter? Involve others in communicating with your chapter members. Try some of these ideas:

Have a newsletter editor who will take in information from all your members and committees and type up a newsletter. It may be a quarterly, monthly or whatever length of time works best for your chapter. (If you need help in starting a newsletter, please contact Laura Perkins, Communications Chair. I'd love to ensure that all chapters have a newsletter.)

Have a phone tree established for quickly communicating important news to all your members.



Do you want to borrow an Educator's Award Book?

Please contact Sally Garrison (WSARHSALLY@aol.com or 248-540-3762) with your request/s.

Did you borrow an Educator's Award Book that you have finished with?

Please return it to Sally Garrison ASAP. There are some requests that cannot be filled yet because books need to be returned so they can be redistributed.

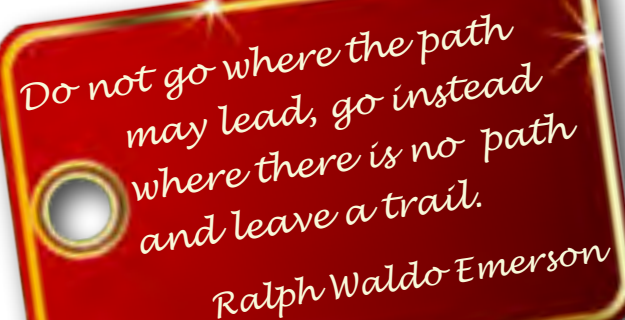
Thanks, in advance.

To quickly communicate via e-mail, when adding contacts to your e-mail account, set up a separate contact list for your chapter. (I have separate contact lists for Mu Chapter, Ten Interesting Women, State Officers and Committee Chairs, and Flint Area Coordinating Council). All you need to do is click on that contact list, click on check all, and you're ready to type a quick message to all your chapter members at once. I use this for communicating important news between newsletters.

Have a committee (or someone) who is willing to send cards to members on birthdays and anniversaries, and flowers or cards to those in your chapter experiencing illness or surgery.

Remember, as president you don't need to do everything yourself. Delegate!

*Submitted by Laura Perkins, Communications Chair,
perkins.laura.k@gmail.com*

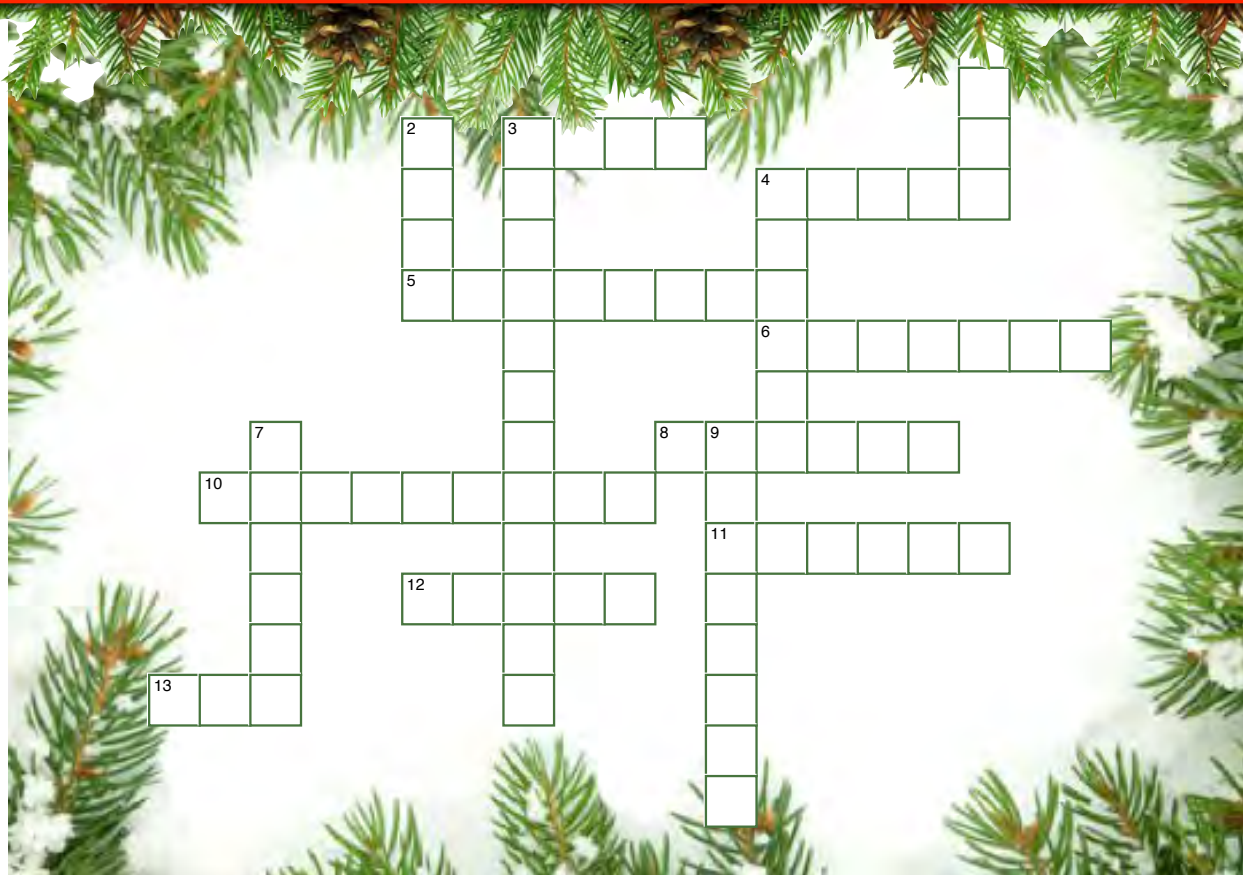


*Do not go where the path
may lead, go instead
where there is no path
and leave a trail.
Ralph Waldo Emerson*

A red, rounded rectangular tag with a gold border and a silver ring on the left side. The tag contains a quote by Ralph Waldo Emerson in white cursive script.

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Across

3. Teachers Helping Another Teacher is also known as ____ Program.
4. Number of copies of your chapter's yearbook, due to Sally Garrison by December 1st.
5. You can help UNICEF most by making a ____ donation.
6. The Spring PAC is scheduled in what city?
8. Schools for _____ is an official DKG project.
10. Author of the song, Jingle Bells. (last name)
11. Jingle Bells was written in what city?
12. At this year's conference, Gamma Beta hosted an "_____ Roast."
13. Number of horses pulling the "Jingle Bells" sleigh.

Down

1. How many dollars will buy school supplies for 10 African children.
2. Author of "My Word!: Plagiarism and College Culture." (last name)
3. Jingle Bells was originally written for this holiday.
4. Dorian _____ has said, "...be thankful for what you escape."
7. The band that entertained at the Great Southwest Coordinating Council event. Deep Fried _____.
9. Biennial Reports are due on the first of what month?

 **Answers- page 5**