



# ALPHA LAMBDA

**THE DELTA KAPPA  
GAMMA SOCIETY  
INTERNATIONAL**

Volume 55 Issue I  
August 2011

## President's Message



Dear Alpha Lambda Sisters,

This biennium, the Executive Officers of Alpha Lambda are doing their best to make Delta Kappa Gamma relevant. This means taking a good look at our mission statement, ensuring true member engagement at all levels of the Society, and offering programs that are unique to DKG.

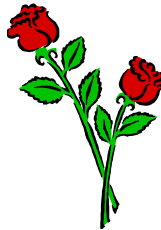
Whenever I meet with the Coordinating Council or attend Xi State, I'm struck by the fact that "relevance" is, well, relative! Our Memphis and state chapters vary greatly with size, traditions, and member profiles, and we are as different from group to group as women are from one to the next. So developing flexible programming to meet these variables is critical to our future success as a key women educators' organization.

But I've also noticed that we seem to have several things in common, despite the many differences: a shared sense of values, a desire for strong friendships, a commitment to becoming the best we can be- in short, attaining that "key women educators impacting education worldwide" our Founders outlined 82 years ago.

As we continue to define "relevance" and work diligently to achieve it, we also need to take a moment to savor where we are right now. Even in these tough economic times, the Society is growing at an amazing rate, and greater numbers are staying connected than ever before: clearly, our members find relevance in Delta Kappa Gamma. Our impact transforms lives through education and service by supporting early career educators, Schools for Africa, the Governor's Books from Birth, Race for the Cure, the Institute of International Education, the United Nations, and other organizations benefitted by DKG is at an all-time high: clearly, our community partners and the constituents we jointly serve find relevance in Delta Kappa Gamma.

Delta Kappa Gamma is on the GO! And our Society connections play an important, relevant role in our lives during our professional years as educators and well after. This year promises to be one of the best. Leslie Morgan, our first vice president, has planned many events and activities that you just won't want to miss. The Executive Board along with the Program Committee has filled our calendar with a variety of meeting dates to try and accommodate busy schedules. Please join us on September 12 to see for yourself how relevant Delta Kappa Gamma is to you.

Aye in DKG,  
Chrissie Allen, President



### UPCOMING EVENTS

**SEPT. 12, 2011 4:30 P.M.**

Program:  
"Taking Care of Business"  
White Station Church of Christ

**SEPT. 14, 2011 6:00 P.M.**

New Member Orientation  
Home of Janice Enck  
4877 Lynbar

**OCT. 1, 2011 10:00 A.M.**

Program: Initiation -  
"Welcome to Delta Kappa Gamma"  
University Holiday Inn

**OCT. 22, 2011 10:22 A.M.**

Presidential Luncheon  
Honoring Jensi Souders,  
DKG International President  
Carl Grant Event Center  
Jackson, Tennessee

**OCT. 29, 2011**

Race for Cure  
Saddle Creek Mall

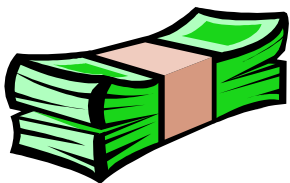
**NOV. 8, 2011 5:00 P.M.**

Program: "African Dancers"  
Soup Supper  
White Station Church of Christ  
1106 Colonial Road

**DEC. 3, 2011 11:00 A.M.**

Program:  
"DKG Holiday Spirit"  
Chickasaw Country Club

## DUES ARE DUE



As we begin another exciting year of Alpha Lambda activities, one of the first orders of business is to collect chapter dues. The amount for active members is **\$80.00**; for reserve members, it is **\$40.00**. They should be sent to our chapter treasurer by **October 1<sup>st</sup>**.

Please make your check payable to **Alpha Lambda Chapter** and mail it as soon as possible to:  
**Camille Dolan**

**6927 Surrey Lane  
Germantown, TN 38138**

If you have any questions, please give Camille a call **(753-5513)** or send her an e-mail [ccd753@yahoo.com](mailto:ccd753@yahoo.com).



## Flower Power

By Chrissie Allen



“Whether you purchase cut flowers, grow your own, or gather them from a field, select blooms that are full of life.” Our guest speaker, Genny Nearn, should know. She was as lively as the plants she brought to demonstrate flower arranging at the March chapter meeting. “You can tell just by looking at them if they are going to stand tall and strut their stuff, or droop and drop their petals by the time you put them in a vase.” Genny showed us how professional flower designers use wire and tape stems for a good reason. No droopy flowers in her

arrangements!

Like a good teacher, Genny, tamed and organized her own backyard flowers into a breath-taking centerpiece. Members laughed as Genny compared flower arranging to good classroom management - something we could all relate to.



## A Blind Side Character

By Chrissie Allen



Delvin Lane was our guest speaker for our May meeting. He grew up in Cleaborn Homes, one of the housing projects that his organization, Streets Ministries, now mentors. Delvin graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in 1995. He was a gang leader and drug dealer until 1999 when his life was drastically changed after he came to know Christ. In March of 2000, he took a position at Streets Ministries as the Middle School Coordinator.

During the meeting, Delvin talked of his attitude change and how much African-American youngsters in the inner city need positive role models in their lives. He’s an example of how one person’s life can be completely turned around if the desire is there. In the movie, *The Blind Side*, the gang leader’s character was based on Delvin’s experiences which have led him to many insightful self-discoveries. Delvin now spends his days counseling gang members, working with homeless children, mentoring children from broken homes, and helping all of them overcome the many challenges they face.

What a surprise for him, when he noticed his former second grade teacher, Celestine French, sitting in the audience. Celestine assured all of us that his stories were true and could add even more colorful stories if time permitted.

Delvin graduated from the University of Memphis in 2007 with a B.A. in Communications-Rhetoric and is at Streets Ministries because he has a calling to give his life to kids and their families in the 38126 community. He assists the football team at Booker T. Washington High School, serves as a board member for Advance Memphis, and is a member of Hope Presbyterian Church. A donation, in honor of Delvin, was made to Streets Ministries.





## HATS OFF

Alpha Lambda achieved the Gold Chapter Excellence Award at Xi State this summer

Alpha Lambda received the Membership Attendance Award at Xi State for the sixth year in a row

Chrissie Allen was awarded a Xi State Vision Foundation Grant at Xi State

Becky Sadowski will continue to serve as Xi State Parliamentarian and as a member of the International Leadership Development Committee

Becky Sadowski for her recent appointment as 2016 International Convention Chair

Mary Jo Wilson for being appointed Area IX Director

Chrissie Allen for being appointed chair of the Xi State Rules Committee

Beth Kaiser for being appointed chair for the Xi State CIEC Committee

Martha Bailey for being appointed to the Xi State Personnel Committee

Janice Sorsby for being appointed chair of the Xi State Achievement Award Committee

Jane Cummiskey for being appointed to the Xi State Scholarship Committee

Camille Dolan for being appointed to the Xi State Awards Committee

Susan Hoback for being appointed to the Xi State Nominations Committee

Paula Marshall for being appointed to the Xi State Convention Steering Committee

Stephanie Anderson for her recent promotion to Principal of Resurrection Catholic School

Judy Babb for completing her second Master's Degree and for participating in a summer institute in Spain

Darlene May for her sabbatical to study in Indonesia

Jane Cummiskey for her recent retirement from Memphis City Schools

Carol Hansen for her recent retirement from Memphis City Schools and her new position as a Tennessee Academic Specialist with the Public Consulting Group (PCG)



Theta Chapter invites you to attend a Presidential Luncheon honoring Dr. Jensi Souders 2010-2012 International President from Tennessee on October 22, 2011 at 10:22 a.m. at the Carl Grant Event Center, Union University, Jackson, Tennessee. Cost \$18.00. Reservations must be postmarked by October 1st.



## ALPHA LAMBDA ROCKS AT XI STATE

by Mary Jo Wilson



Members of Alpha Lambda were busy at this year's Xi State Convention organizing, presenting, performing, participating, meeting, directing, assisting and celebrating. Everywhere you looked there was an Alpha Lambda member busy coming and going. Responsibilities started as early as Wednesday afternoon when Camille Dolan and Janice Enck worked on registration packets and dorm room assignments. Thursday and Friday found members really, really busy with other responsibilities and experiences:

Debi Gray one of our new members attended the First Timers Tea and Reception, sold items at the convention store and took in all the sights and sounds of her first Xi State Convention. Beverly Hooker served as mentor to Debi Gray, Clemmie West served as a table hostess and Celestine French was a member of the convention choir. Beth Kaiser attended the Strategic Action Planning meeting, assisted with the Silent Auction and rang the hand

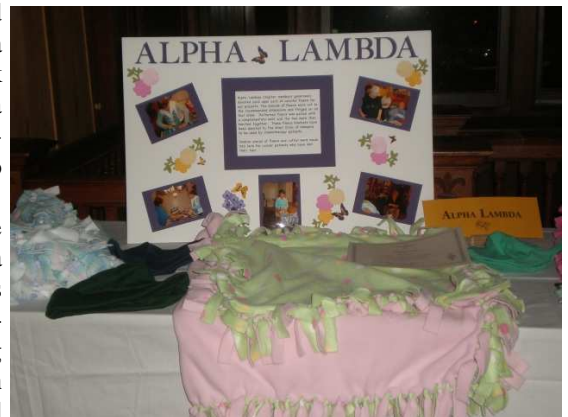
bell at the Ceremony of Remembrance. Chrissie Allen attended the Executive Board meeting, presented an informative workshop on Golden Gift and sang in the choir. Martha Bailey attended the Executive Board meeting, planned and organized the very beautiful Ceremony of Remembrance and presented a standing room only workshop on membership. Becky Sadowski served as state Parliamentarian at all executive proceedings and presented a workshop with our incoming state president Dr. Kathie Harned. Mary Jo Wilson was responsible for the Silent Auction event. Janice Sorsby attended the Executive Board meeting, served as facilitator at Chrissie's workshop and presented checks to the winners of this year's Xi State scholarships. Jane Cumminsky designed and set up the chapter Arts exhibit and sold Alpha Lambda items at the convention store. Vicki Kaiser assisted with the Silent Auction and Janice Enck played the piano at a variety of convention activities. Paula Marshall attended the Executive Board meeting and installed the incoming Xi State officers for 2011-2013 biennium. I wasn't kidding when I told you Alpha Lambda members were out and about the entire time of the convention. Way to go lovely ladies!!

Of course the days were busy but the nights were made for the Alpha Lambda ladies to sit back and relax and discuss all that had happened during the day. Fellowship, laughter and snacks were abundant---who knew Cheetos and M & M's could be soooooo yummy in the wee hours of the morning!!! We all look forward to this time together and wouldn't miss it for anything. I mean who needs to sleep when you are at Xi State?? Really!!!

There was much to celebrate at this year's convention. Alpha Lambda won the Membership Attendance Award for the fifth year in a row!! Our chapter also received the Gold Chapter Excellence Award for the first time and we were recognized for our newly approved website!!! Chrissie Allen received a Xi State Vision Foundation Grant to be used with her Creative Writing classes this school year. We had our International President Dr. Jensi Souders as a special guest and Corlea Plowman, DKG Executive Director was our guest speaker for the convention. We saw the end of one biennium and the start of a new one. Martha Bailey, Janice Sorsby, Paula Marshall, Mary Jo Wilson, Cindy Schepman, Beth Kaiser, Chrissie Allen, Susan Hoback, Janice Enck and Camille Dolan completed their work as state committee chairs and/or members of state committees. Well done ladies, your hard work was appreciated by one and all!! Dr. Kathie Harned and her officers, including Becky Sadowski as State Parliamentarian, Martha Bailey as incoming member of the Personnel Committee and Susan Hoback as incoming member of the Nominations Committee, were installed in a beautiful ceremony at the President's Banquet on Friday night. One sometimes forgets how moving these ceremonies can be, but it was obvious to everyone present that emotions were high and tears were plentiful.

Saturday morning brought clear skies for the Ceremony of Remembrance followed by the beautiful sounds of the carillon playing the Delta Kappa Gamma song. So moving and so very emotional. The Birthday Brunch was as festive as always and gave all of us the opportunity to hear Kathie's biennium theme for the first time. Her theme "Embracing Our Vision Designing Our Future.....Believe" is a combination of Jensi's biennium theme but with her own special touch added to make it uniquely hers. We know Kathie and her officers will do an outstanding job for all of us over the next two years.

Before you knew it the time had come to go back to the dorms, pack up the cars and head back to Memphis. Where and how does the time go by so quickly when you are at Xi State?? The experiences and memories made over such a short period of time last a long, long time. Won't you make plans to join us next year?? It won't be the same if you aren't there!!!





# AS THE DERBY RAN

by Mary Jo Wilson



The excitement and anticipation was very obvious as the six fillies, Sassy Susan, Feisty Janice, Princess Martha, Flamboyant Chrissie, Frisky Becky and Perky Mary Jo from the Alpha Lambda stables

along with their friend Bubbly Betty gathered at the starting gate (cars and vans) with all of their required tack (suitcases, hats, gloves and Cheetos) ready for the starting bell.....and they were off!!! They were headed down the track to Louisville, Kentucky site of the 2011 Southeast Regional Race (Conference). As they headed down the first thoroughfare (the interstate and Kentucky Bluegrass Highway) they enjoyed fellowship, laughter and good food along the way. Heading into the first turn they found the clubhouse (conference hotel) ready and waiting to welcome them all. The end of the first quarter mile brought them to the opening of the First General Session with the presentation of the state flags carried by the outgoing state presidents, followed by Kentucky Night complete with Derby Pie and Kentucky bourbon balls for our favors. Say YUM everyone!!



Going into the half mile turn the fillies gathered for the Tennessee Breakfast full of presentations, introductions, good food and the traditional singing of "Rocky Top ". Following breakfast, they gathered for the start of the Second General Session and the first of two outstanding guest speakers for the day. Their first guest speaker had an upbeat positive attitude that was sprinkled with a dash of

good ole southern down home humor. You can bet that any speech that started with "something good is going to happen to you today" was going to be full of life lessons and experiences that related to one and all. The fillies slowed the race down for a quick shopping exhibition to the boutique area of Louisville followed by a quick feeding at a really unique stable (restaurant). Closing in on the end of the half mile, the fillies returned to the track to hear their second guest speaker talk on the subject of bullying. She was an outstanding speaker, having experienced bullying first hand, and offered many examples of ways to identify victims, bullies and ways to handle and to intervene with each. The fillies slowed down once more in order to enjoy their evening feeding at the historic Brown Hotel and to experience their world famous Hot Brown sandwich followed by the "real" Kentucky Derby pie, ala mode, thank you very much!! There was also time for filly Sassy Susan to buy an authentic, hand made Derby hat and fascinator. Wait till you see her strut her stuff!! The hat and fascinator are really beautiful and all the fillies enjoyed watching the "trying on process" and coaxing her into buying them both. That's what buddies are for right!!!





### AS THE DERBY RAN (cont.)

by Mary Jo Wilson



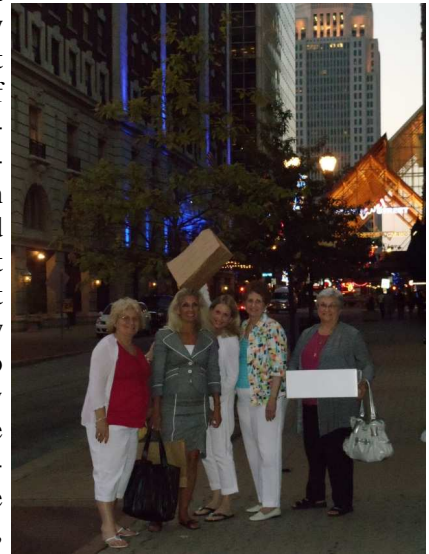
The race picked up speed into the three quarter mile stretch as the fillies attended stimulating and informative workshops all morning. But they took time out to put on their silks (hats and gloves) for the Birthday Lunch. Every filly in the room was decked out in their finest and it really was an elegant and lovely way to spend part of the day. Maybe a new race tradition is in the making!!! This stretch of the race took on special significance as the fillies galloped to the actual Kentucky Derby site, Churchill Downs, to you guessed it, shop for some additional Derby hats. There was much trying on, opinions expressed and credit cards handed over to eager sales clerks. The fillies finished up this leg of the race by enjoying the presentation of a musical based on the life and times of Stephen Foster. Everyone in the audience added their voices to the cast in singing "My Ole Kentucky Home".



The one mile mark of the race brought the fillies to the Third General Session where they had the pleasure of hearing a very dynamic and courageous speaker talk about the trials, tribulations and accomplishment of being the first woman to row across the Atlantic Ocean. Talk about setting a goal for yourself, wow!!! Every filly in the room was in awe of her experiences and what she learned from her adventure. The lesson learned: that all of us have the potential to accomplish great things, we just need to start. Another slow down in the race occurred when the fillies went shoe shopping at the Zappo outlet. (I mean a filly can't have too many shoes in her tack box). So many shoes to try on, so little time, but we did some serious damage while we were there!! The fillies decked themselves out in their very finest silks for the evening to attend the President's Reception and Banquet. The new incoming state presidents were presented, the choir entertained, presentations were made, speeches were given and a lovely meal was enjoyed by everyone.



The new incoming state presidents were presented, the choir entertained, presentations were made, speeches were given and a lovely meal was enjoyed by everyone.



The final quarter mile, had the fillies picking up their speed as they headed down the home stretch. Tack was packed and trailers were loaded as the finish line was finally in sight. The fillies had given the race their best effort and had enjoyed every experience over the last mile of the race. But the finish line was just ahead, could it be a photo finish, YES...and the winner was.....EVERYONE!!! A race well run fillies!!!!



A race well run fillies!!!!





## Founders' Day - April 16, 2011



### Membership Pins were presented to:

Carolyn Taylor - 30 years

Alice Chandler - 30 years

Martha Kage - 50 Years



Volunteer Mid-South presented the Memphis Chapters of Delta Kappa Gamma with the Small Group Volunteers of the Year



**THE MARCH AND MAY  
HIGHLIGHT AWARDS  
GO TO:**



Carolyn Taylor highlighted by Vicki Kaiser



Dottie Hinds highlighted by Clemmie West



Beverly Hooker highlighted by Pallie Shelton





**“New York, New York.....**

**that toddling town, the Bronx is up but the Battery’s down, New York New York it’s a wonderful town.”** The sights, the shopping, the food, the shopping, Broadway, the shopping, the museums, the shopping, the landmarks, the shopping, I could go on and on. I did mention the shopping didn’t I???? Make plans **NOW** to join us in the Big Apple for the 2012 International Convention, July 24th to the 28th. Accommodations will be at the Sheraton Hotel and Towers at 811 7th Avenue between 52<sup>nd</sup> and 53<sup>rd</sup> Streets in the heart of midtown Manhattan. International headquarters has gotten us a superior rate (thank you very much) of \$149 per night, a savings of over \$200 per night based on the hotel’s regular rates for that time of the year. The hotel is located within walking distance to several museums and art galleries, the Empire State Building, colleges and universities, the United Nations, Times Square, Central Park, the Theater District, Radio City Music Hall, Rockefeller Center, Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue shopping!!! You better bring your walking shoes ladies!!!!

Why not consider bringing your spouse to be a part of this event. Activities have been planned and organized for spouses to enjoy while convention activities are going on. The majority of the evenings are being left open in order to enjoy all the entertainment the Big Apple has to offer once the sun goes down.

International President, Jensi Souders, from the great state of Tennessee will be ending her biennium at this convention and we want to give her a fantastic send off. A Tennessee reception has been planned in her honor, and I know you don’t want to miss that!!! There will also be the Tennessee Breakfast and the Xi State President’s reception to attend as well. Not to mention informative and stimulating workshops and terrific guest speakers. I mean, what more could you ask for?????

As more details are made available from International, you will be the first ones to know. So ladies mark those calendars, start saving in your piggy banks and begin shopping for some comfortable walking shoes as you prepare to join us in the Big Apple in July, 2012!!!!

*By Mary Jo Wilson*

**Mark your calendar now:**

**Xi State Convention  
June 7-9, 2012**

**Sewanee  
Tennessee**



**Mark your calendar now:**

**Southeast Regional Conference  
July 24-28, 2012**

**New York  
New York**