



# ALPHA LAMBDA

**THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL**

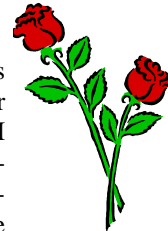
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## President's Message



Dear Alpha Lambda Members,

I am so excited about our new year! The smell of crayons, pencils and new backpacks is in the air. Many of you have been back to school for several weeks and are working to enrich the lives of the students you teach. I hope your summer has brought you some rest and relaxation, and you are looking forward to increasing your knowledge and skills as you embark upon another school year. For those of you who are retired, I know that you continue to grow in new ways. Many of you continue to teach but in different ways. I am very appreciative of all you do to make our chapter a success. Alpha Lambda was awarded the Chapter Excellence Award at Xi State this summer and that would not have happened without the combined efforts of all officers and committees. Alpha Lambda members continue to say, "Yes," when asked to help and this contributes to our success as a chapter.



The program committee has worked diligently to plan programs which will enrich us both personally and professionally. Our theme for this biennium is "Celebrating Women and Diversity." We will be learning about the various organizations in our community who assist people, especially women, and we will work together to make our community a better place. I hope, too, that we will build stronger relationships with each other. I challenge each of you to reach out to someone you don't know very well and get to know that person better. Each of us was invited to become members of Delta Kappa Gamma because we are "Key Women Educators." Why not find out about another Alpha Lambda member who might enrich your life?

Sometimes I have wondered if what I do really makes a difference. However, I am reminded of the honey bee and its contribution to the hive. A beehive produces 100-200 pounds of honey a year and a single bee produces but 1/12 of a teaspoon of honey in its lifetime. Yet with each bee's contribution, they make this remarkable accomplishment. It happens because they work together and attack only their common enemies, not each other. Though a hive may have as many as 80,000 to 90,000 bees, it operates almost as a single organism. Each of us has a role to fulfill in Delta Kappa Gamma. We do make a difference in the lives of our members, students, families and communities by working together!

I appreciate very much your confidence in me to continue our work in Delta Kappa Gamma. I stand on the shoulders of giants who have come before me! I promise to work as hard as I can to be the type of leader of which you can be proud. Thank you in advance for all your support!

*Cathy D. Meredith*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sept. 13, 2012** **4:30 PM**  
Program: "Back to Business"  
White Station Church of Christ

**Sept. 18, 2012**  
Special Event:  
Jeannie Robertson  
Jackson, TN

**Sept. 21-22, 2012**  
Creative Arts Retreat  
Collierville TN

**Oct. 20, 2012** **10:30 PM**  
Program: Initiation  
"Welcome to DKG"  
Chickasaw Country Club

**Oct. 27, 2012**  
Race for the Cure  
Saddle Creek Mall

**Nov. 6, 2012** **4:30 PM**  
Program: Claudia Halton (former judge now CEO of *A Step Ahead Foundation*)  
Soup Supper #7  
White Station Church of Christ

**Dec. 1, 2012** **11:00 AM**  
Program: Holiday Entertainment  
"Reading Around the Christmas Tree"  
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 15th**.

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)).



## THE MOUNTAIN TOP EXPERIENCE



Every June we pack up and head down the interstate for a weekend event known as Xi State Convention. And this year was no exception. Many former attendees along with a first time attendee made the five hour trip to the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee for workshops, celebration, shopping, music, good food, laughter and fellowship. Now who could resist all of that??

As always Thursday was a busy day as silent auction items were delivered, our chapter display was assembled and some members attended the Executive Board meeting. Chrissie Allen, Rules Committee Chair and Becky Sadowski, state parliamentarian, kept the proceedings moving quickly and efficiently. Well done ladies!! Becky Cremer, our first timer, attended the Orientation Tea and had a great time. The first general session was lively and concluded with the Order of the Rose Ceremony. That left time for everyone to check out the silent auction items, view the chapter displays (Jane Cummiskey did a fabulous job on ours) and to enjoy the reception honoring the Order of the Rose recipients. Everyone headed back to the dorms to relax, catch up on day's events and enjoy a variety of snacks and what has become an Alpha Lambda tradition, bags and bags of Cheetos.



Workshops started early Friday morning and continued into the early afternoon and where there are workshops you can be assured that Alpha Lambda members were there. Chrissie Allen, Beth Kaiser, Janice Sorsby, Jane Cummiskey, Martha Bailey, Camille Dolan, Paula Marshall, Carolyn Taylor, Debi Gray and Mary Jo Wilson were all involved in workshop presentations. Becky Cremer participated in the workshop for young DKG members. The morning business meeting went quickly and everyone adjourned to the Awards Luncheon. Alpha Lambda was awarded the Chapter Excellence Award and for the seventh year in a row we won the award for the highest number of chapter members present. Foundation Award recipients Debi Gray and Becky Cremer were also recognized. Way to rock it Alpha Lambda!!!



Before you could blink it was time to head back to the dorms to prepare for the evening festivities. The Area Directors and the outgoing and incoming chapter presidents were introduced to everyone before the beginning of the President's Banquet. A presentation on the upcoming International Convention in New York City was given by International President and Xi State member Jeni Souders. That was followed by a lively dance routine choreographed by Judy Collins to the tune "New York New York" and performed by her Xi State dancers. Libby



Watson, Southeast Regional Director, was our guest speaker. Following the banquet we adjourned to Lower Cravens Hall for a dessert reception honoring our special guests, past Xi State presidents and the new Xi State Achievement Award recipient, Mary Evelyn Perkinson. A lovely evening was had by all and we continued the evening back at the dorm enjoying more fellowship, laughter, snacks and Cheetos.

Saturday morning began with the Ceremony of Remembrance at All Saints' Chapel. Jeni gave a lovely tribute for the members we had lost over the past year and Dr. Dorrie Powell did a beautiful job singing "On Eagles Wings." Everyone assembled outside to respectfully stand while the carillon played the "Delta Kappa Gamma Song." "Hats Off to Our Founders" was the theme for the Birthday Brunch and the Xi State officers' tribute to the Founders was fun and enlightening. Kathy Bradfield of Beta Gamma made a presentation for the Arts Retreat that will be held this year in west Tennessee in Collierville. During the birthday brunch Xi State President, Kathie Harned announced the establishment of the "Iris Circle" as a way of honoring all past state presidents. The event ended with the singing of the "Delta Kappa Gamma Song" and everyone headed back to the dorms to pack and get ready for the trip home.



Now you know you don't want to miss out on all of this fun next year, right!! So make plans to join all of us June 6-8, 2013 at the University of the South for the event known as Xi State Convention. We will be looking for you!!!!







## NEW YORK, NEW YORK



**WHAT DO.....** Cheesecake, singing waiters, pastrami sandwiches, big invisible rabbits, and shopping all have in common???? They were all experienced at the 2012 International Convention in New York City, July 23-28<sup>th</sup>. Oh yes, there were also breakout sessions, guest speakers, elections, amendments, committee reports, general sessions and organized tours to go along with all of the above.

Twelve Alpha Lambda members, three husbands, one granddaughter, a prospective new chapter member, and several friends traveled to the Big Apple for the convention and all the sights and sounds that go along with New York City. For many of them, it was their first trip to New York, but it probably won't be their last!! Xi State had a total of 77 members present for the convention and 18 of those were from the four Memphis chapters. What a great turn out for Memphis!!!! Upon arrival at the convention hotel we were greeted by friendly hotel personnel and tackled registration. Let the convention begin!!

On Tuesday morning many of us enjoyed a tour of NY with Jimmy Only, the son of Betty Only, as our personal guide. Jimmy lives in the New York area and has great knowledge about many of the city's famous landmarks. Let me assure you that we walked off any of the previous day's cheese-

cake (we started eating it on the day we arrived) and then some!! We visited the Plaza Hotel; several cathedrals including St. Patrick's; NBC Studios; walked through part of Central Park; took a subway ride; walked through Chinatown and had lunch in Little Italy. Whew!!! On the way back to the hotel we walked down Fifth Avenue and did some serious window shopping. Oh, to have a gazillion dollars and be a size 6, some serious damage could have been done!! Did I mention the sparklies at Tiffany's??



The convention officially began Tuesday night when International President Jensi Souders called the first general session to order followed by the presentation of the International flags. What a moment!! Jensi introduced two new aspects to begin and end each general session: Designing Our

Future and Embracing Our Vision. In the first, young DKG members expressed how the organization is impacting their profession and their lives. In the second, past DKG International Presidents talked about the accomplishments of their biennium. The evening ended with New York Night which was packed with a variety of artistic performances that showcased the many talents of this great state. To top off the evening we each received a goodie box filled with products made in NY state. The second general session brought committee reports, amendment proposals, nominations, music and a very special presentation and proposal. The Educational Excellence Committee reported that in the last two years DKG members have donated over a half million dollars in support of early career educators. The committee also proposed an



initiative for a second International project to Support Early Career Educators and the membership voted unanimously to accept the new project. The third general session also contained committee reports and additional amendment proposals followed by the International forums. During the fourth and final general session proposed amendments were voted on and the new International officers were introduced. One very important amendment that was unanimously voted on by the membership was to expand our organization into Japan. How exciting is that!!!! Each general session was highlighted with a terrific guest speaker who delivered motivational, inspirational and often humorous messages. Before the end of the last session the Indiana State Organization invited one and all to attend the next International Convention in Indianapolis in the summer of 2014. Everybody say "road trip" and start saving your nickels and dimes. We will expect to see you there!!





**NEW YORK, NEW YORK (cont.)**

There was more to the convention than just business. Three of the days were filled with breakout sessions that had such a variety of subject matter and talented presenters that it was very hard to pick which ones to attend. Four of our members presented breakout sessions: Carolyn Taylor presented one on travel; Martha Bailey and Mary Jo Wilson presented one on our Little Dresses for Africa project and Cathy Meredith, Betty Lou Jones and Bonnie Cummings presented one on integrating content areas into elementary level instruction. All of their sessions were well attended and each one was a huge success. Well done ladies!!!!



Bright and early on Thursday morning over 1000 plus DKG members walked to the NBC Studios to take part in the "Today Show" and then followed that up with a walk to the ABC Studios to appear on "Good Morning America."

What a sight they were walking up and down the busy streets of NY carrying DKG banners and wearing their new DKG scarves. The Celebration Luncheon which was held on Thursday was full of special recognitions and presentations. All members that received their doctorate degree during the biennium were recognized along with the newest DKG International scholarship winners. On Thursday night Xi State hosted a reception in honor of our own Jenji Souders. The reception was a huge success and a good time was had by one and all. The five Regional breakfasts were held bright and early Friday morning. The Celebration of Life Ceremony was held on Saturday prior to the beginning of the last general session. The event was beautifully done and was even more special this year because of the hand bell choir that added their beautiful music to the ceremony. Of course the crowning moment of any International Convention is the installation of the new officers followed by the President's Banquet. During the banquet, incoming International President Beverly Helms introduced her biennium theme: Sharing Our Vision—Strengthening Our Society. We know DKG is in very capable hands and our organization will continue to grow and impact education



worldwide.

The mornings and early afternoons belonged to DKG but the late afternoons and evenings belonged to US!!! And I can assure you we put them to good use!! So much to see and do and so little time!! You can't think of NY and not think of all the landmarks that make this city famous. The members who didn't take part in the walking tour on Tuesday used their down time to take bus tours and taxi cabs to visit the sights on their must see lists. On Thursday many of us traveled by subway to the 911 Memorial. The day was beautiful and the atmosphere was quiet and solemn. It is hard to put into words what you feel when you are right in the middle of this area. It gives you a great appreciation for life and makes you realize that it should never, ever be taken for granted. For each famous landmark in NY there are just as many restaurants to sample and enjoy. And we did our part to enjoy as many of them as we could!! From "Juniors" with deli sandwiches and cheesecake; to an outdoor cafe where you could watch NY go by; to a



restaurant on the shores of the Hudson River with views of the Statue of Liberty and New Jersey; to the Stardust café with singing waiters and waitresses and frozen hot chocolate; to a diner with awesome grilled cheese sandwiches; to an Irish pub for a hearty breakfast; to a chic seafood restaurant with yummy key lime pie and to Roxy's with another opportunity to sample another variety of cheesecake. And guess what, all of the foods were calorie free!! Yeah Right!! Okay, I bet you are all wondering when did we shop. Well just about any time we could. Lets face it, some of the

best shopping was right outside our doors on the sidewalks of New York! Souvenirs were purchased and negotiations occurred with street vendors for "designer bags, watches and clothes." We quickly found that Linda Bond was our "go to girl" for negotia-





### NEW YORK, NEW YORK (cont.)

You can't say you have been to New York without seeing the lights of Time Square and taking in some of the current plays and musicals on Broadway. And so we did!! The dancing and scenery in Disney's "Newsies" was worth the price of the admission. The energy was contagious and you had to marvel at what they did with the few pieces of scenery they had on the stage. That was followed by "Harvey" starring Jim Parson from the "Big Bang Theory" in the role that Jimmy Stewart made famous. What a delight this classic was!! The Tony award winning play "Peter and the Starcatcher" told the story about a boy and a captain that would become Peter Pan and Captain Hook. This was certainly not your average ordinary play but the creativity was awesome. It made you wonder how anyone could come up with the idea of using ordinary kitchen utensils as part of a mermaid costume. You had to be there. The play "Momma Mia" brought out the dancing queens in many of us and gave us the opportunity



to sing along with the cast and just have a fun time hanging with the girls. Our last play of the week was "Nice Work If You Can Get It" with fabulous music by the Gershwin brothers and Matthew Broderick in the leading role. This play had the feel of the old MGM musicals complete with dancing, singing and goofy supporting cast members. Upon leaving the theater we got to star gaze as James Earl Jones, John Stamos, Kristin Davis, Cybill Shepard and John Larroquette left the theater across the street. What a perfect ending to a wonderful week!!

One of the truly amazing aspects of our organization is the wonderful friendships you develop by being a member. It was so wonderful being able to spend time with all of the wonderful Memphis DKG members and to make new friends with those we did not know and to strengthen the bonds of friendship with those we already knew. Priceless!! Membership in DKG begins at the chapter level but to truly see the impact our organization has worldwide you need to attend an International convention. We truly make a difference in our community and in the world and just think, it all starts with you!!! Won't you make plans now to attend the Southeast Regional Conference in Orlando in 2013 and then join all of us at the International Convention in Indianapolis in 2014? I can guarantee you, you won't be disappointed!!!





# LET'S CELEBRATE



### Newlywed:

- Beth Kaiser married Mike Pitt on June 21, 2012, at the Memphis Botanical Garden.



### New Retirees:

- Chrissie Allen
- Anna Davison
- Betty Lou Jones
- Mary Helen Sinclair



### Xi State Grant Winners:

- Becky Cremer - Vision Foundation Project Grant
- Debi Gray - Liz Whorley Bradley Professional Growth Award



### Appointments:

- Becky Sadowski was appointed 2012-14 International Membership Committee Chair and International Convention Chair for 2016



### MCS 2012 Prestige Award Winners:

- Judy Babb
- Helen Erskine



*You are cordially invited to attend the 2012 Initiation of New Delta Kappa Gamma Members on Saturday, October 20, 2012 at Chickasaw Country Club 3395 Galloway Ave at 11:00*



Cost: \$22.00

Mail to Camille Dolan by: Oct. 6, 2012

Indicate: Pork or Salmon on your check

### Get Creative

Creative Arts Retreat  
September 21-22, 2012  
Collierville, TN

**Race/Walk for the Cure**  
**Saturday, Oct. 27, 2012**  
**Saddle Creek Mall**



Register: On-Line or at Carrefour at Kirby Woods

### Mark your calendar:

Soup Supper

November 6th

