



*Sally Nazelrod, DKG MD State Second Vice President; Incoming President of Xi Chapter*

Women in DKG Maryland, as past and present educators, possess many characteristics which naturally make them effective leaders. As a new biennium begins in our Maryland chapters, let's take a look at leadership traits. Like other skills, they can be acquired with time and practice.

#### An effective leader:

- **Holds herself accountable** – She encourages individuality while abiding by organizational structure, rules, and policies which need to be followed. She respects the importance and value of tradition.
- **Understands the importance of productive meetings** – She plans ahead with well thought out agendas and clear direction regarding what needs to be accomplished. She recognizes the value of time on task.
- **Communicates well** – She knows when to talk and when to listen. She values the knowledge, talents, and viewpoints of others. She provides opportunities to get differing perspectives on an issue.
- **Plans for the future** – She understands the need for change and is open to new approaches to solve problems and improve processes.

- **Is people oriented and is a team player** – She makes individuals feel important and vital to the team's success and inspires others to succeed. She displays compassion, kindness, empathy, and truly cares about others. Lives in an "us" world, not a "me" world.
- **Leads by example** – She is willing to work on any task that needs to be accomplished.
- **Possesses confidence and humility** – She has the ability to take charge when necessary, but is respectful with her words and actions.
- **Seeks mentorship** – She uses the advice and success of past leaders to guide future actions.
- **Celebrates all victories, large and small** - She takes the time to recognize the efforts of others.

*"The challenge of leadership is to be strong, but not rude; be kind, but not weak; be bold, but not bully; be thoughtful, but not lazy; be humble, but not timid; be proud, but not arrogant."*

- Author Unknown

Each DKG member brings her own package of strengths and style to our organization. As we value and celebrate individuality, we must continually recognize our mission and purposes:

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

#### Purposes:

The purposes of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International shall be

1. to unite women educators of the world in a genuine spiritual fellowship;

2. to honor women who have given or who evidence a potential for distinctive service in any field of education;

3. to advance the professional interest and position of women in education;

4. to initiate, endorse and support desirable legislation or other suitable endeavors in the interests of education and of women educators;

5. to endow scholarships to aid outstanding women educators in pursuing graduate study and to grant fellowships to non-member women educators;

6. to stimulate the personal and professional growth of members and to encourage their participation in appropriate programs of action; and

7. to inform the members of current economic, social, political and educational issues so that they may participate effectively in a world society.

As Helen Keller said, *"Alone we can do so little; together, we can do so much."*

A special congratulations to all of the new officers and committee chairs of DKG Maryland chapters! DKG leaders have the ability to guide individuals and chapter members toward the fulfillment of goals, motivate others, and initiate actions to promote the success of DKG at the state and International levels. As members, we **all** have the opportunity and responsibility to do our share to contribute to the success of our great organization.

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# The President Speaks

*Soli Deo Gloria (Glory to God)*

We all love surprises, especially those that lift our hearts and cause them to skip a beat! We love opening wrapped gifts because of the rush we get when our expectations are met or exceeded. We love being escorted to locations we have only dreamed about and get to bask in the reality of the visit. We love meeting individuals we have heard about and finally get to meet and like. The biggest surprises are those we receive on our birthdays and special holidays. Surprises are so wonderful.

March 2020 taught us that not all surprises can be delightful, acceptable, or appreciated when we look at the cost in relationships and conveniences. The COVID-19 surprise was not anticipated nor appreciated for the deadline it introduced into our society and continues to wreck on our daily lives. It is not a surprise that many of us wish that this horror had never entered into our lives. And yet, the virus has not been without some merit. It gives us a moment to stop and reflect upon our lives and our blessings - things that we have taken for granted as we blindly rush to get to the next day and fulfill the next appointment. It has caused us to understand that life and health are neither guaranteed or assured. It has caused us to look around us and be grateful for all that we have: family, friends, relationships, etc.

Think about some of the items you have taken for granted and the gratitude you now experience because they are no longer readily available to you. Perhaps your list would look something like mine: I am so grateful for family, friends, children, young people, church, doctors and hospitals, recreation, restaurants, schools, theaters, fresh air, parties, singing, shopping, neighbors, post office visits, hugs, fresh vegetables, museums, seafood shops, clothing shops, shoe shops, podiatrists,

dentists, musicians, flights, bus rides, subways, trips to other cities and countries, hairdressers, dining out, walking through parks, scratching my face, rubbing my nose, holding hands and linking arms, and a multitude of other joys.

We have been put on hold since March 2020. We have been participating in a situation called "lockdown" which means that we are with those closest to us and observing a "social distancing" from everyone else. Some of us have adjusted well to this phenomena and some of us have not. Some of us have adjusted to this new way of living because we are grateful for the life that is given to us. We know that life is a gift and should gladly treat it that way.

Our theme: CHANGE - the Difference is One, still prevails and still brings the same message it brought in July of 2019. We are ONE. We are made from the same stuff and we share the same gifts and burdens. We need each other and we can each claim and make a difference. If only things could be as they were before March waltzed in with its complications and differences. But, alas, things will never be as they were and we must adapt to the changes that now surround and change our lives. We must hold onto what makes our lives livable and purposeful.

As I have talked with our sisters across the state, I am impressed with the different contributions they have made in assisting in making things comfortable for all of us, even those with whom they are not directly linked. We are ONE. We make masks, deliver food, teach lessons, meet on Zoom and Skype, pray for those whose lives have been cut short by this virus, and meet each new day with the gratitude we now possess.



**Lorraine Williams Johnson,**  
*DKG Maryland State President*

"CHANGE - the Difference is ONE" will continue to guide us through this unexpected and unwelcome presence in our lives as we reach out and embrace our sisters and attempt to make life better and more livable for those around us.

**Lorraine Williams Johnson**  
*DKG Maryland State Organization  
President 2019 - 2021*

## In Remembrance of a White Rose



**Kay Karole Wharton**  
1943 - 2020  
Nu Chapter

Kay Karole Wharton was born November 19, 1943 in Butler, Pennsylvania to the late Clarence Gilkey, Jr. and the late Alberta Yost Gilkey. She grew up in Pennsylvania where she studied to become a teacher and eventually followed dear friends who were also involved in education to Maryland. Kay found her way to the Eastern Shore of Maryland, specifically Queen Anne's County, probably in the fall of 1970 and began a very long, successful teaching career.

Kay was a Special Education Teacher at Centreville Elementary School and Centreville Middle School, where she would spend the last years of her teaching career. Kay was a dedicated, devoted and passionate teacher who instilled confidence and motivation in each of her students. She would not give up on students and always found ways to enrich their lives and accelerate their skills by honing in on individual learning styles. She had a calmness about her and made all feel welcome and

genuinely important. She was extremely proud to be an educator and was very pleased to have been chosen Teacher of The Year for Queen Anne's County for the 1999 through 2000 school year. She represented our county well and enjoyed the opportunities that distinction presented to her. She met so many people during her travels who she would keep in contact with and shared so many stories.

Kay had another passion that kept her very involved and allowed her to be more creative which she enjoyed. That passion was Delta Kappa Gamma! She was a member of Nu Chapter for 32 years having been initiated on September 24, 1988 in Centreville, Maryland. She remained a member until her death. Kay served as Nu Chapter President for three terms and as Music Chair for Alpha Beta State. At the state convention in 2001, Kaye organized a vocal group, "The Nutones," which performed during the festivities. Several sisters from other chapters joined the group made up of Nu Chapter members and added their talents. The performance was one of many highlights during the convention. Kaye was an enthusiastic leader for Nu Chapter and provided many opportunities for personal growth and professional development. She introduced us to the red DKG songbook and laid the groundwork for learning many of the songs we enjoy singing at our state meetings today. The song, "Put A Little Music In Your Life" became an instant hit! Kay was an accomplished seamstress and loved painting. She was always busy in her community and gave of her time and talents to benefit others.

Kay was a member of Eastern Star and served as a Past Worthy Matron. She helped many local churches with their Christian Education Programs. She played various instruments and would play for several churches during their worship services using her keyboard, guitar and autoharp. She loved music of any kind and sang with gusto whether it be in a church setting, DKG meeting or at school. She had a fun-loving spirit and enjoyed a good joke and a good laugh. After retiring from Queen Anne's County Public Schools, she decided to go back to Butler, Pennsylvania and be with her sisters. She continued with church work there as her one sister was a minister.

As time progressed, her health became compromised. For the past few years she was a resident of Sugar Creek Rest located in Worthington, Pennsylvania. Sadly, on March 19th of 2020, she passed away with no family with her because of the effects of the coronavirus.

Kay was preceded in death by her parents and her husband, David Wharton, who she married on November 28, 1975 and who passed away on May 8, 1987. She left behind two sisters, a sister-in-law, three brothers-in-law, and many nephews and nieces. Kay was an outstanding, creative and motivated teacher. As a friend, she was loyal, caring and fun-loving. Those whose lives she touched were better for knowing this wonderful lady.

- Ann Campbell, Nu



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## Committee News

### Dues are Due

Weezie Carey, DKG MD Treasurer

Last year the date for dues collection was changed from the fall to the spring. This change was made to align the financial timelines of the chapters, the State and International Organizations. The fiscal year is from July 1 to June 30 each year and the budget is based on the income from the dues collected. Your chapter treasurer will start collecting dues as early as April. Dues should be submitted to the State by May 30. Please do not delay in paying your dues as chapter treasurers need to close their records out by June 15 to prepare for a fiscal audit. Your check needs to be deposited and cleared before that audit can be done.

This year the international portion of the dues is \$40.00 for active members and \$10.00 for reserve and collegiate members. The state portion of the dues is \$30.10 for active members and \$13.10 for reserve and collegiate members. The state portion of the dues includes a scholarship fee which stays in the state coffers to provide scholarships and mini-grants for our members. Also, included in that fee is insurance

and liability coverage for your chapter officers and members as well as money that goes toward the Leadership Development Conference or Convention. In addition to the state and International portion, your chapter will most likely have a portion which stays in your chapter. Your treasurer will inform you of the total due for your chapter.

As part of your membership, access to the international website is available to you. After signing in to DKG International, you can access your profile under "My DKG" and then "My Account." Once there you are able to make any changes needed to your mailing address, phone number and email address. This ensures that the State Organization and International have correct contact information for members. There are many other things that you can access while on the International website. Make sure to check it out.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me anytime.

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### Moving Forward with a Scholarship

Erica Bates, State Scholarship Recipient, Theta Chapter

As a lifelong educator and learner, the Maryland State Scholarship provided a key to open the door for me to move forward in achieving my career and academic goals. My career goal is to enrich the learning environments of children by providing a solid educational foundation and promoting self-efficacy, determination, and resiliency. My academic goal is to finish my doctoral degree program at Liberty University in Curriculum and Instruction which will assist me in evaluating existing curricula, conducting research on best educational practices, and to collaborate with educators to improve quality of instruction.

As a passionate, dedicated educator, I strive to apply my extensive experience and knowledge in education to create stimulating and enriched learning environments. With the scholarship, I can utilize my expertise to obtain research-based strategies to motivate students to achieve their academic goals. Since each student has a different way to receive and process information, academic courses can assist me in expanding my proficiency to reach students by designing learning environments that meet the needs of every student.

The academic courses in the doctoral program offer the opportunity to collaborate with peers on the current instructional strategies and curricula that meet the needs of a diverse student population. As a result of the knowledge that I will acquire, the information can be shared with my colleagues and other educators through conferences, trainings, team meetings, and one-on-one mentoring. Presenting the knowledge at conferences allows the exchange of creative ideas, developing skills of peers, and promoting successful students. By sharing the researched based practices with the community of parents, educators, and students in workshops and professional trainings, we can connect to support, coach, and guide one another which will improve instructional practices.

With the Maryland State Scholarship, I can continue my academic and career goals while making a difference in the lives of all students through support and guidance. The difference will be evident in the lives of educators through mentorship and professional training. By gaining new knowledge and skills, my expertise will generate experiences and skills for educators and students that will last a lifetime.

### Scholarship Awarding Ceremony on Zoom

Dr. Minnie Young, DKG MD State Editor



The Awarding Ceremony on Zoom.

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The Scholarship Awarding Ceremony for Erica Bates was held on Saturday, May 2, 2020 at noon. Allison Gradwell, Mu, hosted the ceremony on Zoom. Donned in DKG red, the attendees included State President Lorraine W. Johnson and Scholarship

Committee members Jean Marie Hofstetter, Terri Massie-Burrell, Carol Kilby, and Sheila Owens. Dorothy Clowers, Theta Chapter President, gave Erica's accolades. "Since taking the helm as president of Theta Chapter, Erica is the first member to accomplish this milestone. I am

so proud of her," she said. Erica Bates and her friend, Thelma Hayes, presented on the work that they do.

Everybody looked at the camera as Minnie Young. Eta, took a group photo.

Carol Kilby, Theta, wrote, "It was a lovely ceremony with a well-deserving recipient!"

## Historical Records

*Joan Wiggins, Chair, Historical Records Committee*

**Y**ou just found a 1996 copy of meeting minutes of your chapter which list the attendees at the meeting. Or, perhaps you located a scrapbook containing pictures and notes that someone compiled in 1988. Toss or keep? Your State Historical Records Committee (HRC) is here to assist you in making decisions about these chapter archival materials and records.

Historical records document the work of an organization. They tell the story of the community and its people, their successes, and the issues that they believed were important. As a member of an organization, you have meeting minutes, agendas, notes, pictures and other materials that have gathered in your file cabinets. Do you need to keep them forever? Certainly not, but some materials merit keeping for historical information. They may be vital for someone to see the timeline of business conducted for the group, which individuals were members of the group, special activities that were planned, financial obligations and other pertinent group dynamics. We all need to declutter, but what should be thrown away?

The HRC for DKG Maryland was established to preserve the records of our State Society and other International documents that impacted Maryland. For many years, Maryland was collecting funds through the purchase of items at the State Store to acquire a headquarters building. This building would become the repository for the historical records as well as other uses for Maryland. When it became apparent that an acquisition of the headquarters building would not occur, the records, which were stored at the home of Past State President **Doris Anderson, Alpha Iota** (1997-1999), needed a more permanent location.

In 2011, the HRC developed several goals that related to the Records.

**Goal #1: “To locate, recommend and move the Alpha Beta State (DKG Maryland) Historical Records to a safe and secure central location in a climate-controlled storage facility.”** With Past State President **Susan Gray, Rho** (2009-2011) as the chair of the committee, the committee researched the cost of housing and moving the historical records. On March 3, 2012, a motion was presented at the Executive Board meeting to “move and install the historical records of Alpha Beta State to EZ Storage in Pasadena, Maryland. The move, rent, insurance and equipment costs are not to exceed \$2,000 for 2012-2013.” Finally in January 2013, the records were moved to the storage facility.

Since the move to the storage unit, all the file cabinets, boxes, binders, and other materials have found their way to the new location. If you were to visit, it would be unlikely that you would find what you were looking for in the climate-controlled unit. Although there are labels on the file cabinets, it is not organized in a systematic way for our members to use. **Another goal for the 2011 HRC was “to organize the records so that they may be used more easily by committees and individuals members.”** That continues to be one of the main goals for the current HRC.

What is currently housed in the storage unit? Some of the materials are:

- Convention Programs
- Convention Reports
- Celebration of Life Booklets
- Financial Statements
- Treasurers’ Reports
- Vouchers
- Receipts
- Bills
- Dues Reports

- Executive Board Agendas
- Executive Board Minutes
- Binders of Motions
- International Go-to-Guides
- International Constitution
- State Bylaws/Standing Rules
- Chapter Materials
- Scrapbooks
- State Newsletters
- State Yearbooks/Directories
- State Training Guides
- Sheet Music and Books
- Photo Slides (4)
- Dissolved Chapter Materials
- State Membership Rolls
- Miscellaneous Items
- Women in the Arts Display Materials
- Seven Purposes Banners
- Time Capsules (2037 Anniversary)

Many thanks go to the previous Historical Records committees for paving the way to this process of gathering, organizing and researching our files. The on-going process will take some years to complete and the current committee is eager to take on this challenge. If our documents were not already housed in the storage unit, you would not know that:

~ the late **Mary Ruth Meredith** received a State Scholarship in 1967

~ At the 1971 State Convention, the Executive Board meeting was held on Friday night and continued through Saturday.

~ On the 40th Anniversary of Alpha Beta State (Maryland State Organization), a booklet was published that extensively honored the State Founders.

We appreciate your patience as we navigate the file drawers and label folders but the eventual outcome of accessible Historical Records is the ultimate goal for DKG Maryland.

### Thinking about Leadership

*A few inspirational quotes to reflect upon, collected by Sally Nazelrod, Second Vice President.*

*“Everyone has inside of her a piece of good news. The good news is that you don’t know how great you can be, how much you can love, what you can accomplish, and what your potential is.” -Anne Frank*

*“She was powerful not because she wasn’t scared but because she went on so strongly, despite the fear.” – Atticus*

*“The way in which we think of ourselves has everything to do with how our world sees us and how we see ourselves successfully acknowledged by the world.” -Arlene Rankin*

*“You have to have confidence in your ability, and then be tough enough to follow through.” – Rosalynn Carter*

*“I attribute my success to this: I never gave or took an excuse.” -Florence Nightingale*

*“Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people.” - Eleanor Roosevelt*

## Hosting a Chapter Meeting via Zoom

*Iris Wingert, Omicron Chapter President*

**O**n Tuesday, April 21, 2020, despite the Governor's stay-at-home order, it was business as usual for the Omicron Chapter. Well, sort of. At 6:00 p.m. I held a successful program meeting via Zoom with 23 members in attendance. Our original plan was to have a meeting at A Likely Story Bookstore in Sykesville where the storeowner would present a book talk followed by a chapter business meeting. But those plans had to be scrapped and reformulated to meet the needs of our members who are all staying home. So, the alternative was to hold a meeting via Zoom, a technology I had used twice, but never as a host.

The Zoom video conferencing technology is free with participants of up to 100 people. However, the free version is limited to forty minutes per session. Since I needed more time for our meeting, I paid \$14.99 for a license to use Zoom for one month and thus gained sufficient time to hold our meeting. Following my registration, I searched for online videos that would teach me the mechanics of hosting a videoconference via Zoom. First, I found

a video that was posted on the DKG International Facebook page: <https://youtu.be/HyEadYxlZCg>. Then I located additional videos on YouTube such as: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Dq1syZX2O4>. I also obtained help from an online database provided by the Baltimore County Public Library called Lynda.com. This is a product from Linked In that has a one-hour beginner video called, "Learning Zoom." I found that video and the some of the videos that Zoom itself offers to be very helpful.

After watching the videos and taking notes, I held a practice Zoom session with a few Omicron chapter officers. With their help, I was able to try out several Zoom features such as sharing a PDF document, using chat mode, mute, and annotation. While we were having fun seeing each other, I was learning about setting up parameters to keep the meeting orderly while gaining confidence that I could manage and host the meeting.

In preparation for the meeting, I typed up an agenda and emailed it to chapter members along with an invitation to join,

the time and day of the meeting, and a link for the meeting. To keep things simple, I did not require a password.

A half hour before the meeting, I logged into Zoom, started the meeting, and waited for members to arrive. The meeting went off without a hitch. My agenda included a treasurer's report, election of officers for the next biennium, and a few reports followed by a guest speaker from the Mt. Airy Public Library who presented a book talk about books that could be downloaded onto a Kindle or other electronic devices. I shared the screen with a PDF document of images of the books that the speaker emailed me in advance.

I now have enough confidence to hold more Zoom meetings. The next one planned is a Zoom "Happy Hour" and sharing time for members. Additionally, membership chair, **Laura McClelland** and I will host an orientation meeting via Zoom for prospective members. And if our executive board cannot meet in person, then we will hold a videoconference as well.

In summary, Zoom is a good alternative to conducting chapter business during these days of sheltering in place. As they say, "It's the next best thing to being there."

## Mu is Managing Magnificently

*Patty Simon, Mu Chapter President*

**I**ncoming Mu President **Allison Gradwell** made a couple of suggestions to keep our chapter going during the coronavirus quarantine. One was setting up a Zoom meeting so that we could meet remotely. This took place on Saturday, April 25, and 12 members were in attendance. Even though we couldn't be together in person, it was great to see everyone and we were still able to conduct business. In addition, thanks to **Janey Snyder** of Alpha Chapter and **Allison Gradwell** of Mu, the presidents and first vice presidents of Alpha, Mu, and Xi were able to hold a Coordinating Council meeting on Zoom to discuss joint activities.

Allison's other suggestion was that members of Mu Chapter share what we've been doing to occupy time during the pandemic. When State President **Lorraine Johnson** made the same request, we were ready to comply. Here is our list.

**Dottie Anderson**—Reading, cleaning out storage area, watching TV, genealogy

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**Rhonda Bailey**—Developing online lessons, doing jigsaw puzzles, spending time with her cats

**Ashley Debelius**—Spending time with her 2-year-old daughter, writing positive messages with sidewalk chalk, baking, developing online lessons

**JoAnne Dement**—Reading, trying out recipes, watching movies, working on puzzles, walking, Zooming with family and friends

**Jessica Galeano**—Spending time with her husband and 2-year-old son, building a playground, working on the house, cooking, making crafts

**Allison Gradwell**—Quilting a wall hanging, baking, gardening, putting up a bird house, walking, reading, preparing a NAMI program presentation for teachers

**Wendy Happel**—Making pictures out of jewelry and buttons, journaling about this experience, planting seeds, walking her dogs, doing jigsaw puzzles

**Marcy Hotchkiss**—Exercising, working from home

**Carol Hutzley**—Gardening, planting vegetables and flowers, sewing, painting her shed, walking, watching movies

**Eileen Masaschi**—Visiting her mother remotely, delivering food and flowers, doing jigsaw puzzles, walking, planting flowers, cleaning out closets, shredding papers

**Kathy Corley Murray**—Going for walks, spending time with her cats, cleaning the house, doing a jigsaw puzzle

**Kelly Olds**—Spending time with her daughter, playing games with her family, doing yard work, developing online lessons

**Sheila Owens**—Doing jigsaw puzzles, cleaning the house, doing yard work, weeding, putting down grass seed

**Patty Simon**—Doing jigsaw puzzles, watching TV, decluttering, walking, reading

Although we miss getting together in person, we enjoy keeping in touch through email and Zoom. We're grateful to have the technology to be able to do so.



## DKG MD Zooms!

*Omicron Zooms*



*Omega Zooms*



*Mu Zooms*

## Anxious to Join DKG, New Member Zooms into Omega

*Jean Marie Hofstetter, Omega*

Like all Sisters in DKG MD, the Omega Chapter was feeling anxious about the health of each member as well as the future of the chapter during COVID-19. Chapter President **Karen Yancey** flipped members' worries by hosting not only two virtual chapter meetings; one purely social and the other a timely Business Meeting, but also the first ever virtual Induction. Yes, from the safety of our homes during this pandemic, 16 members of Omega participated virtually as we inducted our newest member, **Laura Williams**. How comforting yet energizing to see all the smiling faces of our Sisters donned in red welcoming an inductee during this challenging time in life, especially in the world of education. The DKG Seven Purposes were emphasized and a history of DKG was shared for all in attendance. How special it was to have DKG Maryland State President, **Lorraine Johnson**, join us and add words of encouragement. Once again, Omega demonstrated strength in these uncertain times declaring growth in our chapter, support for fellow educators, and love of our DKG Sisters.

## Managing Despite Covid-19 : Three Xi Sisters Share Their Stories

*Sally Nazelrod, Xi*

Supervise physical education student teachers at McDaniel College. One is at the elementary level and the other at the middle school level. Each student teacher has two placements. When the schools closed and the "stay at home" order came, each student teacher was required to complete assignments as well as connect with their cooperating teacher and collaborate online to provide activities for students to complete. These student teachers are to graduate this May. Their first placements were completed January-March, but the second placement required the college, the supervisors, the mentor teachers and the student teachers to become creative to meet the challenges of online learning. When speaking to mentors and students in P.E. classes, both student teachers have used Google Meet. For evaluation meetings, Zoom will be utilized. My role was to grade assignments, discuss lessons and units with my student teacher and the cooperating teacher, complete evaluations, and provide support. This experience has been different, but goals were accomplished during this special time in our lives.

*Kathy Ourand, Xi*

Teaching and learning changed drastically with the onset of the Coronavirus in mid-March. The sudden school closure called for teachers to quickly become creative and resourceful. As the principal of The Forbush School at Glyndon, a special education school, we moved swiftly to get teachers trained on Google Classroom and Zoom to use as their primary teaching platforms. We provided devices for any student who did not have one at home and then each teacher held a Google Classroom orientation for families. Our clinicians continued to provide their service via tele-therapy. Each student's IEP needed to be amended to reflect the service being provided through distance learning. As you can imagine, all these changes were overwhelming for students, staff and families. Now that we have been providing instruction through distance learning for a few weeks, everyone seems to have settled in to the "new normal." We plan to use remote learning on snow days in the future and Zoom meetings will continue to be our go-to platform for many meetings. We are adapting to the changes and happy about never having a snow make-up day again!

I also teach a graduate class at Towson University. These students are teachers in a program to become reading specialists. For them, the transition to remote learning was not as challenging. Their struggle was that they were teaching from their computer all day and then learning from their computer in the evening. Too many hours in front of a screen!

*Cheryl Riisager, Xi*

I am one of three Xi chapter members who is still involved in the educational field. I am retired, but work part time for Goucher College supervising teachers in the BCPS system who are teaching full time while enrolled in the MAT program working towards a Masters in Teaching. These teachers, in my case, are proficient in Spanish, but do not have a background in Education. This has been a challenging time for all of us as I still have to supervise them which includes weekly contact via email, text, or Zoom/Skype. Along with this I am also tutoring my oldest grandson in Spanish via Skype twice a week which has been a challenge, yet wonderful for me!

## DKG Maryland State News

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## From Ashes to Zoom

*Dr. Minnie Young, State Editor, Eta Chapter*

**T**his is a story of a dream, devastation, and determination. This is my story.

As I walked to school when I was 10, I would daydream about a school that is a happy place for children. I would imagine where the playground would be and so on. This daydreaming would eventually be pushed back as I was awarded scholarships that led me to pursue a course of study in the Sciences. By my junior year in college majoring in Biology, I would become miserable amidst cat anatomy and organic chemistry. At this same time, a classmate invited me to volunteer as a *catechist* to help prepare Catholic children for Holy Communion. I agreed. My, oh my. That first time I crossed the gate to a public school, the sound of children playing filled me with indescribable joy. I would eventually talk to my parents, fearful that I would like to let my scholarship go and change my major to Education. My father was disappointed. But my mother, a former teacher, said, "There will be no doctors, lawyers or engineers without teachers." And so I pursued Education.

Perhaps you have heard of when Mount Pinatubo erupted in the Philippines. We thought this volcano was extinct. Apparently it was dormant. And one day in **8** DKG Maryland State News Spring 2020

1991, it exploded enveloping a large area in volcanic ashfall. There was so much devastation. The US Naval Base in Subic Bay closed. My childhood home was buried in ashes. Fortunately, my brother and I were studying and living in a different city.

Eventually, I would find myself on my way to Cincinnati where I pursued a doctoral degree in Education. I only had a J Visa which meant I needed to finish within a year. I finished my coursework in 15 months, taking the maximum units my scholarship would allow each term. I do not know how I managed, but I am pleased to share that my GPA was 4.0. I returned to the Philippines with the coursework finished but not the dissertation. I would come home to a house still buried in ashes. My parents had a two-unit apartment rental that survived the ashfall. That's where we stayed.

Parents would soon hear about a teacher who graduated from the University of the Philippines and who studied in the USA. They started bringing their children to me. One parent said, "Here, Teacher Minnie. Please educate my children." From four children, I soon found myself with 16. I thought I should go get a permit from the government to run a tutorial center. But the supervisor for private schools encouraged me to establish a private school instead!

My whole family went for it. The building and land belonged to my mother, *Mrs. Natividad Ladoves*. She said she



*Minnie Young, Eta, on her visit to her school, Learning Circle, in the Philippines.*

has always dreamt of "educating the future leaders of tomorrow." My sister and brother both worked with me. The school was founded in November 2000. Soon it grew to its present population of 133 students and is currently providing jobs for 22 teachers and staff.

I returned to Ohio in 2003 to finish my degree. Then I accepted a teaching position at Frostburg State University in 2006. I recently visited the Philippines in February for my brother's wedding. The sound of children still fills me with great joy. I visited each class, reading "The Hug" by Eoin McLaughlin. It's a sure way to get hugs!

Things went downhill fast from that point. The Philippines was placed on Covid-19 quarantine. Schools were closed. And soon, it became apparent that one good option to stay open is to go online. We applied and was approved for G Suite for Education. From May 1-22, I trained our faculty on the Fundamentals of Online Teaching. By May 25, we were able to offer 5 online classes with 50 students enrolled. I, myself, am teaching. We have real time encounters with students on Zoom and learning materials on Google. From ashes to Zoom, we keep our fingers crossed that Learning Circle will go on.