2019 State Convention: A Soaring Success

Patty Simon, Mu Chapter President

The 2019 Maryland State Convention, held in Hunt Valley, Maryland, from April 26 to 28, was packed with great information and wonderful opportunities to interact with DKG sisters. The weekend started off smoothly thanks to Janey Snyder and Alpha Chapter’s efficient registration process. Throughout the weekend, participants were treated to lovely music provided by Ann Campbell, Betty Hepler and the ABS Chorus and musicians. Another continuing treat throughout the convention was the Women in the Arts display which showcased a variety of art forms. Other treats were the delicious ones found in the Hospitality Room which was amply stocked and beautifully decorated by Rhonda Wagner and Paula Kuenzel.

The convention officially kicked off Friday night with opening remarks from President Sharon Darling and a warm welcome from Dr. Marilyn Keane, convention chair. This was followed by a fabulous musical presentation by a representation from “Route 81,” an a cappella group of young men from St. Paul’s School. They delighted the crowd with several numbers ranging from spirituals to the Beatles. Afterwards, auctioneer Mary Lee Makinen auctioned off three chapter baskets.

One of the main purposes of the convention was to address some of the state’s bylaws. This took place Saturday morning during the General Business Meeting. The assembly adopted all of the amendments which included changing Alpha Beta State to DKG Maryland and changing the dates when the newsletter would be published.

Also during the business meeting, the international guest was introduced. Dr. Donna Niday, the Northwest Regional Director, introduced and spoke of International, as well as condolences for the loss of our beloved Jean Gray. That afternoon Dr. Niday presented two workshops: the Chapter Presidents’ Roundtable and the Chapter Treasurers’ Training. The former encouraged presidents to examine their relationships with their members and to understand the impact those relationships have in ensuring good chapter attendance and participation. The treasurers’ workshop gave them important information regarding changes in collecting dues and sending information to International.

Other workshops included:

Make and Take: Create a Wreath - Mary Lee Makinen and Weezie Carey led participants in making beautiful sunflower wreaths.

My Gift: Education from a Rosenwald School - Dr. Janet Cornick spoke from personal experience of the Rosenwald Elementary Schools that prepared African American students for further education.

How Organizations Can Improve from a Growth Mindset - Dorothy Clawers, Dr. Annette Blake, and Yvonne Stone provided activities that emphasized the importance of collaboration and a positive attitude.

Laughter and Health: Rx for Teachers - Dr. Beverly Eanes shared tips on how to use laughter and humor to deal with life’s challenges.

The workshops were presented after the Birthday Luncheon and before the President’s Banquet. The luncheon began with the presentations of the first Black-Eyed Susan Awards, an idea initiated by President Sharon Darling. These awards recognized chapter members who volunteer their time and talents to activities and causes outside of DKG. Recipients were given a framed certificate and a cloth Black-Eyed Susan pin. This ceremony was followed by Tau Chapter’s entertaining and informative Founders Presentation, which highlighted the accomplishments of each founding member of DKG. Next, Jean Marie Hofstetter and the Scholarship Committee recognized the scholarship recipients. After these various presentations, Mary Lee Makinen once again auctioned off some chapter baskets for the benefit of the Emergency Fund.

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President’s Message

Time Waits for No One

It is hard to believe that two years have gone by since I was installed as the Alpha Beta State President (now known as DKG Maryland) with the help of my granddaughters. I have visited many chapters, gotten to know so many wonderful people, attended the Regional Conference and the International Convention, and have increased my knowledge of our state and international society. “Time is not measured by clocks, but by moments.” There have been so many memorable and awesome moments during my presidency. My goal was to grow the society by ridding ourselves of practices and habits which interfered with successful communication in all areas beginning with the individual chapter extending all the way to the International Society. When people are better informed they feel a stronger sense of ownership and increased personal interest. Additionally, I tried to encourage members to take on leadership roles and become risk-takers to enhance the future of DKG.

Becky Sadowski, who was then Second Vice President of International and now First Vice President of International, attended our November 2017 Society Workshop and worked with us on ideas which may help revitalize our state. We discussed three areas: communication, leadership and membership. Many great ideas were brainstormed and have been implemented. Both our newsletter and webpage are invaluable tools which keep us informed on all levels of society business. Take advantage of these communication assets and don’t forget to use the International Webpage. In the area of leadership, we see an increase of members leading workshops at state events. Our members are active with their local chapters and continue to become involved with worthwhile projects.

Nina Scott, Executive Director of Delta Kappa Gamma, joined us at our Leadership Development Conference in 2018. She spoke about the decline in membership throughout our society which we as a state had already identified as a problem area. She asked a provocative question, “Why are you a DKG member?” Among the many answers given were: developing friendships, networking, increasing leadership skills and receiving scholarships. International is currently conducting a survey so that they may grasp and understand any negative issues and reasons for the decline in membership totals.

Dr. Hattie Washington, our keynote speaker for the November 2018 Society Workshop, encouraged us as educators to “Grow, Change and Soar.” Take time to reread the Winter 2018 state newsletter account of her passionate and inspiring presentation.

We have a theme throughout the biennium. At our recent convention, Mary Makinen advised us to burn bridges comprised of stupid mistakes, negative thinking and self-doubt and to build a bridge constructed of confidence, time and growth. One of my favorite expressions is, “Build A Bridge and Get Over It.” Even our International guest, Dr. Donna Niday, spoke of “Change.”

The recent state convention held in Hunt Valley at the Delta Marriott was so well organized by Dr. Marilyn Keane, soon to be the First Vice President of DKG Maryland. She and her committee did an outstanding job; many thanks to all of you! At the business meeting, changes were mandated by International while others were presented to members in attendance by the bylaws/standing rules committee. They did an outstanding job with the recommendations. Two changes impact us greatly: 1.) changing the state name to DKG Maryland and 2.) changing the due date for society dues collection. These changes will require some adjustment on our part. Educational Excellence, headed by Lorraine Johnson, obtained great workshop presenters from our state membership. I do have to thank Ann Campbell and the state music committee for touching my heart with the song that was written for me and singing, “Carolina in the Morning.” For years I felt that way, and still love to do that, but nothing is finer than Maryland all the time! Be sure to read the article by Patty Simon, who did such an outstanding job summarizing the convention!

Thank you to the Executive Committee and the Leadership Development Committee for all you have done this biennium. Also, I do appreciate all the support from chapter presidents and each individual chapter. All of my sisters have truly been “the wind beneath my wings!” Ann Campbell, thank you for being my editor and for riding with me so many times. Mary, you have been there for me, doing so many things that most were unaware of. Thank you for keeping me on the right path. Mary thanks to my chapter, Nu, for all of their support. To each and everyone, thank you for letting me be the President of Alpha Beta State. Please continue to support Lorraine Johnson as you SOAR as ONE to make CHANGES during her biennium.

Remember, “Change is the essence of life. Be willing to surrender what you are for what you can become.”

- Sharon Darling, State President
The Vision Statement of DKG reads: “Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide.” This is a powerful statement. North Carolina chapters are impacting the lives of others in local communities, in our state, and around the world. Thank you for caring about others and making a difference in the lives of others. Last fall, I received a call from Sharon Darling, the DKG President of Maryland, and she wanted to know how her state could help our teachers affected by Hurricanes Florence and Matthew. She impacted lives in NC by creating the spark that encouraged me to ask our state to contribute to the Funds for Florence Project.

In October, three days prior to our Fall Executive Board Meeting, chapter presidents were sent an email requesting gift cards for our 27 teachers needing assistance. On October 13, 2019, $1,350.00 in gift cards were distributed to those teachers who worked in schools either destroyed or damaged by flood waters.

Region X hosts for the 85th year Birthday Celebration decided to continue the project to assist our members affected by the hurricanes rather than choose a project in our area to support. The project was named Fund$ for Florence.

State organization presidents in the southeast reached out inquiring about how they could assist. We received money from the following states: Alabama, Mississippi, and Virginia! Cashier’s checks or gift cards have been sent throughout the year to the designated 27 teachers.

At the Maryland Executive Board meeting it was decided that they would raise funds throughout the year and in the spring Sharon would come to North Carolina and visit schools to bring gift cards to teachers. On April 8th Sharon visited Brinson Elementary School in New Bern, NC and personally distributed gift cards to four teachers. Past Region II Director Tammy Collum represented Eta State that day in New Bern. Other members of that chapter who were impacted by Florence were given gift cards at their chapter meeting.

Sharon also visited Trenton Elementary and Jones Middle School that were both destroyed due to the hurricanes. She visited teachers from those two schools at Jones High School with Gamma Epsilon Chapter President Jackie Lanier to distribute gift cards. President Lanier was also given additional gift cards to distribute.

I have been amazed with the generosity of our NC members. Chapters have sent money to purchase new books for libraries and sent money directly to these teachers.

A total of $13,296 has been distributed to 27 DKG educators! Share the Sparkle!

What a heartwarming experience it was to go to North Carolina and be able to give the gift cards to some of the teachers who lost so much because of Florence. Some of them not only were impacted at school but also had damage to their homes. As all DKG members, many worked diligently in their communities to help with the devastation. I applaud each teacher that endured so much after Florence. You, in Maryland, made me so proud to be your state president. Thank you so much for your support for these teachers. You are “Leading Women Educators, Impacting Education Worldwide.”

North Carolina Sparkles
Connie Savell, North Carolina State President

Sharon Darling’s Visit to North Carolina

Ms. Richards and Ms. Reno were among the teachers who received a gift card during Sharon Darling’s visit at Craven County Schools, NC.

Sharon Darling with Dawn Jones and her first grade class at Brinson Memorial Elementary School in North Carolina.

DKG Maryland State News Summer 2019
Mary Lee Makinen took to the podium and delivered her keynote speech on leadership. She described DKG members as selfless women who “build each other up, celebrate each other, leave a legacy, and create a safe place to grow.”

Mary Lee Makinen then took to the podium and delivered her keynote speech on leadership. She described DKG members as selfless women who “build each other up, celebrate each other, leave a legacy, and create a safe place to grow.” She emphasized the importance of being patient and going through one’s own struggles in order to grow. She quoted John Maxwell who said, “The main purpose of a bridge is to connect two places and make one accessible to another.” Mary Lee Makinen expounded upon this idea by saying that people need to “burn their bridges of stupid mistakes, negative talk, and self doubt…, and build bridges of confidence, time, and growth.”

The President’s Banquet began with a series of introductions: the people at the head table, past State Presidents, and current Chapter Presidents. Next came the Installation of the 2019-2021 Officers conducted by Carol Miller-Schultz. Outgoing President Sharon Darling passed the gavel to Incoming President Lorraine Johnson, who announced her biennium theme: Change—The Difference. During the installation of the 2019-2021 Officers, outgoing President Sharon Darling passed the gavel to Incoming President Lorraine Johnson, who announced her biennium theme: Change—The Difference.

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Afterwards, Mary Lee Makinen donned her auctioneer hat one last time and auctioned off the remaining baskets. Karen Yancey spoke as a first timer, sharing how Jean Marie Hofstetter had encouraged her to become a teacher and join DKG. Next, the Chapter Awards were given out by Joan Wiggins and Cheryl Townsend of the Chapter Support Committee. The final speech was delivered by International guest Dr. Donna Niday, who spoke on the topic “All about Change.” Of course no DKG activity would be complete without concluding with the Delta Kappa Gamma song.

Sunday morning found many DKG sisters attending the Celebration of Life Service, which was organized by Raye Long. Twenty-seven members were remembered, several of whom were eulogized. Mary Lee Makinen spoke first about Jean Gray, sharing personal and professional memories, and praising her for her many fine qualities, among them her wisdom, kindness, and strength. Jean Gray held numerous offices in DKG, including Alpha Beta State President, Northeast Regional Director, and International President. Later in the service, Mary Lee Makinen spoke again, this time to remember Past State President Doris Anderson. Shari Grim shared memories of Past State Treasurer Elaine Crowe, and Gail Wood remembered State Honorary Member Marjorie Holt. It was a beautiful ceremony.

After having one more breakfast together, another successful convention came to its conclusion. DKG Maryland now looks ahead to a new biennium.
The first Black-eyed Susan Awardees were recognized for volunteering their time and talents to activities and causes outside DKG - an idea initiated by President Sharon Darling.

Route 81, an a cappella group of young men from St. Paul’s School, delighted the crowd with several numbers ranging from spirituals to the Beatles during Opening Night.

Throughout the weekend, participants were treated to lovely music provided by Ann Campbell, Betty Hepler and the ABS Chorus and musicians.

Tau Chapter’s entertaining and informative Founders Presentation highlighted the accomplishments of each founding member of DKG.

Another continuing treat throughout the convention was the Women in the Arts display which showcased a variety of art forms.

Karen Yancey spoke as a first timer, sharing how Jean Marie Hofstetter had encouraged her to become a teacher and join DKG.

Mary Lee Makinen donned her auctioneer hat and auctioned off chapter baskets for the benefit of the Emergency Fund.
The 2019 Alpha Beta State Organization’s Convention sponsored several workshops that appealed to our sisterhood. Our presenter included Dr. Janet Cornick, Lambda, Dr. Beverly Eanes, Omega, Dorothy Clowers, Theta, Dr. Annette Blake, Theta, Yvonne Stone, Theta; Mary Makinen and Weezie Carey, Alpha Delta. Our recorders were Elaine Allnutt, Iota; Sandra Collins, Theta; Joyce Conway, Delta; Barbara McKimmie, Epsilon; and Joan Wiggins, Alpha Theta.

PRESIDENTS’ WORKSHOP
Joan Wiggins, Alpha Theta Chapter President

How well do you know your chapter members? On Saturday, April 27, the chapter presidents gathered with Dr. Donna Niday, our International guest, in a workshop session. After introductions, we all received a small paper and were asked to list our chapter members. Depending on the size of your chapter, it was either an easy task or one that required some deep thought. We were then asked to list a word that would describe the interest of each member of our chapter. This was more difficult to do and caused us to think if we really knew our chapter members.

Dr. Niday’s exercise with the member names was an eye-opener for the presidents to immediately build a relationship with their members. At each meeting, we must make a connection with each member. It is evident that chapter presidents tend to forget those who do not participate or show up for meeting. If we aren’t willing to invest in our members, then the membership suffers.

This session concluded with each chapter president stating a word that best describes Delta Kappa Gamma.

TREASURERS’ WORKSHOP
Elaine Allnutt, Iota

Dr. Donna Niday led an informative and interactive workshop for Chapter Treasurers. We walked through and practiced the new electronic process for collecting chapter dues. The session also included time for questions, discussion and possible solutions. It was a very beneficial activity for everyone.

MY GIFT: EDUCATION FROM A ROSENWALD SCHOOL
Sandra Collins, Theta

In this session, Dr. Janet Cornick gave us a personal view of attending a Rosenwald School, built for black students in a rural area of Bank Chapel, North Carolina. Dr. Cornick attended Bank Chapel School from first grade to eighth grade in North Carolina. To help those in attendance understand this process, Dr. Cornick shared some history of how the Rosenwald schools came to be. Booker T. Washington asked Julius Rosenwald, a Jewish tailor and the owner of Sears and Roebuck, to donate seed money to build schools in rural areas for black students to attend. With the seed money, communities that wish to have a school raised matching funds. These schools were built from Maryland to Texas. Over five thousand schools were built.

Bank Chapel community, many of whom were sharecroppers, helped to build the school. Dr. Cornick attended.

LAUGHTER AND HEALTH: RX FOR TEACHERS
Joyce Conway, Delta

Is there laughter in your life? Are laughter and humor good for your health? Do you have a sense of humor? The participants of the workshop given by Dr. Beverly Eames had an opportunity to really think of the answers to these questions. As teachers, there seems to always be stress. Is it acute stress or chronic stress? What causes it? Discussion was on the stress hormones and how they affect our lives, and the three parts of
humor: physical expression, emotional delight, and mental navigation.

Taking the Sense of Humor Pre-test by Dr. Paul McGhee gave us an idea of how we view our own sense of humor. Are we able to laugh at ourselves? If we are, we can forgive ourselves.

The Recess Games were lots of fun. There was laughter and learning. Packets of information about laughter and humor were distributed. We do have to balance our work with some play and have laughter and humor in our daily lives. How much better we will feel!!

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How to Inspire a Positive Growth Mindset

Sally Nazelrod, Xi

Presenters: Dr. Annette Blake, Yvonne Stone, Dorothy Clowers

This session examined the differences between a Fixed Mindset and a Growth Mindset and provided strategies that will help chapters set a new course for change. A growth mindset is a willingness to change. Chapters need to have the grit to make the necessary changes. Changes may take time, so the term, yet, as in not yet, provides encouragement as this process moves forward.

A Growth Mindset
• Sees an opportunity for learning
• Welcomes challenges
• Keeps trying
• Gives best effort
• Believes you can always improve
• Learns from others
• Just needs more time
• I can do this!

A Fixed Mindset
• Is afraid of failure
• Avoids challenges
• Does just enough
• Thinks you are either good or bad
• Ignores feedback
• A negative thinker
• I can’t do this!

Which one are you?
Examples discussed included:
• A Lack of Confidence (fixed) vs. Confidence (growth)
• Avoid Challenge (fixed) vs. Embrace Challenge (growth)
• Hiding the struggle (fixed) vs. Seeking Help (growth)

Chapters are encouraged to:
• Pay attention to effort over results
• Be specific with praise
• Encourage a healthy attitude with failure and challenge
• Use the word “Yet” and use it often
• Show that you don’t always have to be successful to be OK.

Two crafty DKG members Weezie Carey and Mary Makinen, both from Alpha Delta, took on the task of teaching 18 DKG sisters how to make a beautiful Black Eyed Susan Wreath. Weezie had prepared and bagged all the materials ahead of time so that participants could start the assembly of this project right away. With patience and humor both Weezie and Mary taught them how to “walk,” secure and attach the netting to make the flower petals and leaves. The last step was gluing on the black center. The hour flew by but the final results were beautiful Black Eyed Susan Wreaths leaving the workshop to decorate members’ homes.

Make & Take Workshop: Wreaths

Barbara McKimmie, Epsilon

Smiling participants with their beautiful wreaths.
Change: The Difference is One

Lorraine Johnson, Incoming State President

Soli Deo Gloria

Change is difficult. It often removes the familiarity and comfort from our lives. We are content when we maintain the status quo. Change disturbs us. It is not reassuring since we must put aside that with which we have become comfortable.

We seldom like change. We don’t want our apple carts upset or upended. We are not elated when we must become familiar with something new or discern another way to perform a task. Neither are we joyful with another piece of equipment that must be learned in order to operate. Often, we call those who promote change in the status quo “rebels.” A rebel is one who fights against an established system or rules in order to effect change. Let’s look at one rebel who is most familiar to us; then we’ll look at another from this century.

Our principal founder, Dr. Annie Webb Blanton, had a dream. She wanted women to become educated professional leaders. She was intent on advancing those who were aware of their environment and had the wherewithal to make intelligent and outstanding decisions about it. She wanted women to improve themselves both personally and professionally and to embody excellence in education. She did not seem rational in the 1920’s. She was labeled a “rebel.” However, she convinced eleven faculty members at the University of Texas to join her in this great undertaking. Her leadership qualities are evident. The eleven other women felt that her dream should become a reality and set out to make it so. On August 15, 1929, a charter was issued by the state of Texas and the establishment of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. On May 11, 1929, Dr. Blanton and her co-founders began planning the expansion of the Society. Alpha Chapter in Austin and Alpha State Organization, Texas were the first to be established. By March 2008, there were more than 114,000 members in 2792 chapters located around the world and in the United States of America.

We are the beneficiaries of Dr. Annie Webb Blanton’s dream and leadership. She was the ONE.

Now, travel with me to New Orleans, Louisiana during the late 1950’s. Listen to another piece of history illustrating what my biennial theme envisions. In September of 1958, 55 minority students enrolled at the newly opened Louisiana State University, New Orleans, Louisiana, (LSU-NO), to begin their college education, desiring an affordable education. They launched out. To say that these students were not welcomed would be a gross understatement. It would not do justice to the pain and suffering they endured. They fought a good fight, but 54 of them left. They either dropped out of school or went to another location later on. However, One emerged, stayed the course, became the ONE. As a result of her heroic stand the University of New Orleans is reputed as being among one of the most diverse college campuses in the United States of America.

Dr. Annie Webb Blanton is ONE. This august group, the Alpha Beta State Organization assembled here this weekend is a clear testimony to that fact. Louise Williams Arnolie Deck is ONE. As a result of her heroic stand the University of New Orleans is reputed as being among one of the most diverse college campuses in the United States of America.

I am striving to be ONE and I invite each of you to pledge to be the ONE. Change comes as each of us decides to be the ONE. So make a positive difference.

Are you the ONE? Lorraine Johnson aims to be one and is asking you to do all that you can to help the organization soar.

L-R: Beverly Battle, Washington State President, Lorraine Johnson, and Joanne Finney, Washington State Editor

Are you the ONE? Be a change agent: be ONE. Be an agent of change. One person can make such a great difference. I am asking you to do all that you can to help Alpha Beta State Organization continue to soar. I am asking you to visit a school, talk with a friend, call an inactive chapter member, or do some praiseworthy act to assist Alpha Beta State Organization. We have all changed.

We are wiser, more experienced, possessing savoir faire and a whole lot of other stuff smart women possess. I am asking each one of us to be the ONE for Alpha Beta State.

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Are you the ONE? Be a change agent:

Are you the ONE?
2019 Convention: A Time for Sisterhood
Congratulations to 2019 State Scholarship Recipients
Jean Marie Hofstetter, Omega

The Alpha Beta State Scholarship Committee members including Dorothy Clowers, Theta, Susan Gagliardi, Epsilon, Sheila Owens, Mu, and Jean Marie Hofstetter, Omega, enthusiastically presented five Scholarships at the April Maryland State Convention.

The Dr. Anne Matthews Scholarship in the amount of $1,500.00 was presented to Christina Lynn McDonough, Tau. Christina is working on Plus 60 credits beyond her Masters. She is immersed in graduate level course work in the areas of Classroom Management and Student Engagement/Motivation at Augustana University in Sioux Falls, SD. In addition to her college courses, she has been actively involved in Tau Chapter, school leadership positions and community activities.

This year’s recipient of the Esther J. Crooks Scholarship in the amount of $1,500.00 was Anne Rickwood, Alpha Beta. Anne is working towards the completion of a Doctorate of Education in School System Leadership at the University of Maryland College Park. She is in her second semester in the second of a three-year program. In her 23 years in education, Anne serves as Assistant Principal at Patuxent High School in Calvert County, MD. Her colleagues in DKG support her as a scholarship recipient due to her commitment to our organization. Her co-workers advocate for her as an instructional leader dedicating countless hours to students, staff, and the entire school community.

This year’s recipient of the $1,500.00 Dr. Fern D. Schneider Scholarship was Sheila Gearhart, Epsilon. Active in the chapter since 2015, she is credited with creating Epsilon’s first website. Currently, Ms. Gearhart is attending McDaniel College completing the Learning Technologies Specialist Postbaccalaureate Certificate. This Spring, she enrolled in two courses on Technology totaling six credits.

The Founders Scholarship will be shared by Jennifer Hlavaka, Alpha Gamma, who was awarded $1,200.00 and Doretha Gay, Lambda, who was awarded $300.00. Ms. Hlavaka joined DKG in 2014 and quickly assumed leadership of Alpha Gamma as Vice President and then President. Growing professionally, Jennifer is attending the Sellinger School of Business at Loyola University where she will spend 2 1/2 years earning an Executive Masters of Business and Administration. Her detailed résumé references her undergraduate work at the University of MD and her graduate work at Johns Hopkins. It also highlights her years in Baltimore City Public Schools and most recently Howard County.

As a member of Lambda Chapter, Doretha Gay has served as President and Vice President, on the State Convention and Chapter Planning Committee plus Lambda’s New Teachers’ Project. Doretha volunteers as tutor for students at Clemens Crossing Elementary. Doretha Gay applied for The Founders because she is enrolling in the Museum Tours class at Howard Community College. In this role, she will organize up to seven field trips to art museums in the Baltimore-Washington area. On Doretha’s résumé she stated her objective is to become a Home Instruction Reviewer.

Congratulations to Christina, Anne, Sheila, Jennifer and Doretha on being awarded 2019 Alpha Beta State Scholarships!
Thanks to our contributions to the World Fellowship Fund, young women who are not DKG members are able to obtain an education here in the United States and Canada. They may not otherwise have had the opportunity in their nation.

See how a World Fellowship scholarship has impacted the life of one of the 2018-2019 recipients, Maria Dugo. She is from Argentina working on her Masters in Global Environmental Policy at American University. The following is a correspondence from Maria to Delta Chapter:

Thank you so much for the amazing birthday card! I am blessed for having you in my life. I really feel your love and support and I am honored to be a DKG Fellow.

Let me tell you a little about me and my experience in the US. I am doing very well. I am enjoying the Global Environmental Policy Program at American University very much, I have obtained full marks in all my subjects last semester. I am involved in academic activities as well as social events. Recently, I joined the Global Environmental Politics Student Association as Secretary. Also, I am doing an internship with the Organization of American States, working on environmental security and justice issue. It is a dream come true!

I am very happy because I am travelling to Argentina to see family and friends. (I stayed in the US for the winter break, but I went to Florida and had a great time.) Then, the 13th of March I am going to Atlanta for a Climate Change Training so I am much excited about that, too. Finally, the 28th of March I am travelling to Nashville for a Fulbright enrichment seminar about American Music!

March will be a very busy month between traveling and school but I am so happy and I feel so privileged to have this opportunity that I wanted to share it with you.

I hope to meet you soon and get to know each other more and share experiences.

I already know you are a group of lovely smart ladies. Thank you again.

All the best,
Maria

Alpha Beta State contributed $4,902.41 to International for World Fellowship from August 7, 2015 to August 14, 2017 in the 2015-2017 biennium. From September 28, 2017 to March 15, 2019 of the 2017-2019 biennium, we have contributed $4,197.06. Just $802.94 to reach the goal of $5,000 by July 1st.

Consider the many possible ways your chapter can obtain funds for this worthwhile cause. It can be as quick and as easy as displaying a box or jar labeled, “World Fellowship” to an auction or special game. Many thanks to Brenda Korrow, Epsilon, Becky Taylor, Beta, Wendy Happel, Mu and Yvonne Stone, Theta for sharing how their chapters help raise money for World Fellowship. We hope to hear from other chapters at future meetings. Contributions can be made using Form 43 on the website.

Together we are lighting the way for their future, helping make their dreams a reality.

Committee Members: Sharon Hilty, Delta, Laura McClelland, Omicron, Margie Nowosielski, Xi, Florence Saku, Eta, Becky Taylor, Beta, and Sharon Darling, Nu and State President ex-officio
Jean Gray was a charter member of Omega Chapter, Maryland, in 1973. She served her chapter and state in a myriad of positions before becoming active on the state level. She was invited to the Leadership/Management Seminar of 1981 at Baylor University. She became Alpha Beta - Maryland - state president in 1985-1987 and served as Northeast Regional Director from 1992-1994. She served as Society first vice president before being elected to the highest office for the 2002-2004 biennium.

On the international level, Jean Gray was a member of the Convention Rules Committee. She served on the World Fellowships Committee, The International Speakers Fund Committee,

The Educational Foundation Board of Trustees, and the Leadership Development Committee. She was the chairman of the Constitution Committee (two bienniums) and the Constitution Interpretation Committee. After fulfilling her Society presidency, she was appointed to serve as International Parliamentarian. She and former international parliamentarian, Ardith Inman, were co-directors of the Parliamentary Training Seminar."

To Alpha Beta State members, Jean was a friend. She worked side by side with us to ensure the Purposes and Mission of The Society. She developed leadership training modules we will use in some form forever. Jean wanted the best for all of us. Jean shared everything while still maintaining her personal privacy.

To say she will be missed does not begin to cover the magnitude of this loss. While time will keep on and those of us who knew her depart, her legacy, while those members in the future know it or not, will continue to shine on the Society as well as the other avenues in her life which she pursued with the same fervor, the same mentoring, the same leadership teaching. Jean was the same in all her walks of life.

For a woman of such a small stature, she was a GIANT. The world is a better place for her presence in it. Even though her death causes my heart to hurt, I know I am a better person for having known and loved her. I rejoice in her reunion with her Lord.

Alpha Beta State was renamed following her death. She never knew DKG Maryland State Organization, but DKG Maryland State Organization knew her and will forever be grateful for her presence in our lives.

Peace, my friend.
Chapter News

Our Trip to San Juan

Barbara Davenport, Alpha Delta

We arrived in San Juan late Thursday night. The B&B we had contacted sent a taxi to pick us up. There the taxi driver was with a notebook with Susan and Barbara printed on it. Ralph was his name and what a trip we had! Ralph was our tour guide all the way from the airport to Old Town San Juan. He pointed out all of the attractions that we had to see. Of course, it was at night and dark, but he kept speaking until we arrived at Casa Sol.

Casa Sol was one block from the ocean and a very beautiful place. The rooms were great and the dining area was in the middle with an open sky view. We called our DKG friends Rosa and Evelyn and they said they would pick us up at 9 AM.

After a typical Puerto Rico breakfast, which was delightful, our friends picked us up to drive to the school. On the way, our two new “tour guides” pointed out the government buildings, hurricane damaged buildings, and other sites.

When we arrived at the school, it was surrounded by a chain link fence and guarded by an armed guard. Evelyn had the correct credentials and the guard let us into the yard.

This is a school that we had supported after “Maria” came to call. The school was devastated by the storm and needed many things. When our chapter sent the money to fix the copier, they were very happy. We met the principal, Maria. With Evelyn serving as an interpreter, Maria told us how much she and the school appreciated our gift. She said that they made the money we had sent “stretch.” After taking photos, she led us to the main office and pointed out the copier we had sent money to fix. They insisted that we take a picture of the copier.

The next stop on the tour was the kindergarten room where our donation had allowed them to purchase a steel door in the room to replace the one damaged by Hurricane Maria. The children were very curious about the visitors that had entered their classroom. They seemed happy and bright. Of course, another picture was requested.

We then visited several additional classrooms and stopped in a third grade class to see their recycle projects. They were making banks, plastic bag holders, and pretty flowers. The children were very proud of their work.

It was nice to see our donation being used each day and helping the students and teachers of the school. It was a very pleasant experience.
Lambda Chapter Soars in 2019

Dr. Terri Showers, Lambda

Lambda Chapter continues to soar! With new officers, the chapter’s commitment to community outreach on the local level, and active representation on both the state and international levels, Lambda Chapter’s success moves forth in the new biennium. Along with this success, the chapter maintains its current membership with dedicated members and looks forward to expanding its membership in June.

Recently, Frances Reynolds, past secretary, was installed as the new treasurer. Additionally, Torri Brown was installed as the new secretary. Members look forward to having both Frances and Torri serve in these new roles as officers and leaders for Lambda Chapter.

Lambda Chapter is committed to serving the Howard County community. In March 2019, the chapter made a financial donation to Howard County Community Educational Foundation, Inc. to support the Silas Craft Collegians Dinner. This effort, spearheaded by Blondelle Hunter, enabled three students in the Silas Craft Collegians Program to attend the dinner. The Silas Craft Collegians is an academic program for select Howard County students and focuses on the students’ successful completion of an associate degree and transfer to a four-year college. The students were grateful to receive this support and sent a beautiful thank-you card to our chapter.

On May 14, during Howard County Community College final exam week, the chapter provided Starbucks gift cards to fifteen students in the Student Support Services Program (TRIO). The program supports low income, first generation college students. This initiative, implemented a year ago, was again well-received by the students. Furthermore, Lambda Chapter joined Alpha Gamma Chapter and presented a $500 DKG Scholarship to a high school student in May 2019.

Members regularly attend and participate in state meetings and serve on different committees. At the last state executive board meeting held March 2, five members of our chapter attended and benefitted from the information shared as well as being a part of the fellowship. During the Alpha Beta State Convention, besides having our members attend, Dr. Janet Moye Corrick presented “My Gift: Education from a Rosenwald School” twice and received favorable remarks about her presentation. Dr. Terri Showers will attend and present, “Making the Invisible Visible: What does STEM and DKG have in common?” at the 2019 International Conference in Reykjavik, Iceland. It is hoped this presentation will spur interest of other DKG members about STEM education.

Doretha Gay was the recipient of The Founders Scholarship and used the funds to attend a course about various art museums in the Baltimore-Washington area. She will share her knowledge about museums with members of the chapter and encourage others to pursue educational growth opportunities. Doretha was also the first recipient of our chapter to receive the new Maryland Black-Eyed Susan State Achievement Award. We are very proud of her for this recognition.

Lambda Chapter is very delighted to have received their first Exemplary Chapter Achievement Award during the 2019 Alpha Beta State Convention. Receiving this award means a lot to Lambda Chapter and is a testament of our consistent efforts to continue to do the work of Delta Kappa Gamma.

DKG Maryland State News Summer 2019
Omicron Chapter Partners with Taneytown Elementary School

Iris Wingert, Omicron Chapter President and Laura McClelland Omicron

For the second year in a row, the Omicron chapter is partnering with an elementary school. Last year’s partnership with Linton Springs Elementary School was a tremendous success. We are using last year’s formula during the 2018 – 2019 school year to replicate that success by collaborating with Taneytown Elementary School (TES), a Title I school located in Carroll County. Coordinating this partnership is Omicron’s membership chair, Laura McClelland, who initiated contact with the school’s administration to determine how the chapter could best assist the school with projects that are important to the success of their student body and to the support of their faculty and staff.

As a way of introducing ourselves to the school’s faculty and staff, several members convened in August to wrap 90 Hershey bars with a message from our chapter wishing everyone a great year. The candy was distributed in all of the school’s mailboxes.

On October 26, eight Omicron chapter members (all retired teachers) hosted a Poor Friday Breakfast for the school’s personnel – over 80 people in all. This group of dedicated chapter members woke up particularly early (for retired folk) and headed out in a dark morning to arrive at the school around 6:45 a.m. The food and supplies for the breakfast were generously donated by Omicron chapter members. The teachers and staff were treated to a feast; on the menu were several egg dishes, a hominy casserole, a blueberry French toast casserole, sweet noodle kugel, oatmeal, a variety of muffins, donuts, cookies, and other pastries, fresh fruit and orange juice, coffee, cheese sticks and yogurt, bagels and cream cheese, pumpkin bread, and granola bars. It was great to interact with the staff who were very grateful for a warm and delicious breakfast. While socializing with the teachers, one of the faculty members recognized two of our chapter members who were serving breakfast that morning. It turned out to be quite a pleasant surprise to discover that the Taneytown teacher was their student in fourth and fifth grades. What a joyous reunion of two generations of teachers sharing smiles and hugs!

In addition to breakfast, six new Taneytown E.S. teachers were each presented with a crate of useful teacher supplies that were contributed by chapter members and collected during our October 4th meeting.

During our November 15 dinner meeting, chapter members donated items to be sold at the TES “Holiday Shop.” These were new and slightly used goods that could be purchased as Christmas presents: knick-knacks, decorative items, jewelry, crafty items, scarves, and virtually anything for any age that families could purchase for a small fee. The donations were set up in the school cafeteria where children shopped for inexpensive (from one to five dollars) fun and meaningful gifts for their family and even for their pets. Proceeds from the sale of these items raised money for the school’s PTO and PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) programs. Three Omicron chapter members, who took the school system’s volunteer training, sold gifts at the school during the week of December 10th. They saw first-hand, how much the students enjoyed the opportunity to search for and purchase just the right item for that special someone. Their gifts were also wrapped and labeled so they were ready to be delivered. Our chapter received a lovely note of appreciation from the PTO president and PBIS Support Room Assistants.

During our chapter’s annual cookie exchange at our February meeting, Omicron sisters brought homemade and store-bought cookies that were delivered the next day to the Taneytown E. S. staff. Between April 1 and 5, several Omicron sisters volunteered to help students select books at the school’s annual bookfair which benefited the Media Center. The final event that chapter members helped with was the TES May Flower Sale.

The rewards of this partnership go two ways. Our Omicron sisters are very happy to support fellow teachers at Taneytown Elementary School. It’s great to know that our worthwhile efforts help the school with fundraisers, especially because there is such a great need for this Title I School. We are pleased to see our time and our donations used in a very meaningful way and we are already planning for next year’s school partnership. You can see pictures from our TES partnership as well as the partnership at Linton Springs Elementary school at https://omicrondkgmd.weebly.com/educational-partnerships.html

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

Dates to Remember

International Conferences
(It is not too late to register)
June 27 - 29, 2019
Asheville, NC

July 10 - 12, 2019
Des Moines, Iowa

July 17 - 20, 2019
Costa Mesa, CA

July 25 - 27, 2019
Reykjavik, Iceland

July 30 to August 1, 2019
Mashantucket, CT

September 14, 2019
Executive Board Meeting

November 2, 2019
Society Workshop