

# Beta Delta News

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International  
 Region VII, Eta State, Beta Delta Chapter, Greensboro, NC

Volume 30, Issue 4

Embracing Our Vision—Designing Our Future  
 “Lead—Serve—Impact”

Late Summer 2013

**Joint Meeting  
 of all Greensboro DKG  
 chapters**

Saturday, October 5, 2013

9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

**Program: Lynn Ragsdale, US  
 Forum Representative and  
 Dr. Elaine Jenkins, Chair of  
 the Educational Law and Pol-  
 icy Committee**

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Send us your  
 Beta Delta News

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**President’s Message from Mary Sharpe**



Hi Beta Delta Sisters,

This summer I have been reminded about the importance of “Being Present”. We often get too busy to enjoy the presence of family and friends. I was given many opportunities to ‘Just Be’ with those who make life complete. Of course, spending time and being present with my grandchildren was a highlight of the summer. Many of you have traveled, celebrated with family and friends at weddings and birthday parties, and have, hopefully, had the chance to experience ‘Just Being in the Presence of those who add joy to your life’.

The Executive Board was given the opportunity of ‘Being in the Presence’ of Key Women Educators as we met at Marcia Wooten’s home for our planning retreat. Marcia was a gracious hostess even though we arrived earlier than expected! The beautiful setting afforded us a relaxing atmosphere in which to plan our year and just have fun! More details about our decisions are printed in this newsletter.

Patricia Taylor, our Eta State President for this Biennium 2013 – 2015, challenges each of the Eta State members to ‘**Be Present**’ and actively participate in the life of Delta Kappa Gamma . The **theme** for this biennium: “Together, We Are Stronger – Committing, Collaborating, Celebrating!” reinforces the importance of each member to ‘**Be Involved**’ in the projects and programs. **The Eta State Vision:** Voices of Influence Empowering North Carolina Women Educators invites us to ‘**Be Empowered**’ in our efforts to **Advance** the professional interest and position of women educators.

Will you ‘**Be Present**’ this year at the four chapter meeting and ‘**Be Involved**’ in Beta Delta Chapter’s projects and programs? For our chapter to be vital and vibrant, **YOU** are needed to ‘**Be Present**’ with us.

Look forward to seeing each of you at our first meeting – Saturday, Oct. 5. This is a joint meeting with the other Greensboro Chapters held at St. Francis Episcopal Church on Lawndale Ave. We are excited to welcome two very special guests, Lynn Ragsdale, US Forum Rep. and Dr. Elaine Jenkins, Chair of Educational Law and Policy Committee, who will give us a Legislative Update. Don’t miss this opportunity to be empowered with information.

Best regards,

*Mary Sharpe*

**Mark Your Calendar: Joint Meeting of all Greensboro Delta Kappa  
 Gamma Chapters – OCTOBER 5 2013 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. St.  
 Francis Episcopal Church on Lawndale Avenue.**

## Member News

### Wonderful pictures from the wedding of Melissa Harrelson's daughter!

Melissa writes, "As



we all know the summer has been especially moist! Lots of rain and the mountains were no exception. But we were blessed with the only 3 days of



sunshine in 2 months! Great wedding in Cashiers, NC. Our baby girl is all grown up!"

### More Wedding News!

Lindsey Thomas sends a picture of her exciting news from the summer! She got married to Jake Gump on July 6th at Castle McCulloch. Congratulations to Lindsey and Jake!



### Ginger Parnell - a new chapter!

Ginger Parnell is now working in various roles with her family business, Shoe Center. You can find her on different days at one of the store locations: 710 Hwy 17 S, Marketplace Center, North Myrtle Beach, SC or 1144 E. Cutlar Crossing, Villages at Brunswick Forest, Leland, NC. During the past year Ginger completed her training in pedorthics at the Robert Palmer, M.D., Institute of Biomechanics where she studied the biomechanics of the foot and foot pathologies. On the Delta Kappa Gamma front, Ginger has accepted the invitation to serve Eta State by working on the Strategic Planning Committee. While she works full time she makes time for walks on the beach and volunteering at her new church, Barefoot Church, in North Myrtle Beach as well as serving as a volunteer ambassador for K-Love Radio. Ginger and Mike reside at 6202 Nixon Street in the Cherry Grove Community of North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582. Her email address is [ginger-parnell316@gmail.com](mailto:ginger-parnell316@gmail.com) and her cell phone number is [336.334.9337](tel:336.334.9337). Please stay in touch!

### Welcome to Anne Housman!

Anne Houseman is a new transfer member from Mu Chapter in Florida (Mu State). She moved to Greensboro to be nearer family, having lived in Florida for 39 years. She now makes her home in Brandt Village. Anne is a native West Virginian, having received her B.S. and M.A. degrees from West Virginia University. Her 39-year teaching career in elementary, high school, and college mainly includes locations in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Florida. Her chief interests now are reading, music, attending a nephew's soccer games, and dogsitting with her favorite "niece."



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

### Important Dates

**2013 Beta Delta Chapter Meeting:**

**October 5, 2013 (Saturday)**

**Joint Meeting of Greensboro area Delta Kappa Gamma chapters—St. Francis Episcopal Church on Lawndale Avenue**

9:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

**December 7, 2013 (Saturday)**

**Annual Holiday Brunch and Auction**

9:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m. Location TBA

February 10, 2014 (Monday)

5:00 p.m. Location TBA

May 6, 2014—(Tuesday)

5:00 p.m. Location TBA

**2014—2015 State Information:**

**Eta State Convention**

**April 25-27, 2014**

Greenville, NC

**Eta State Convention**

**April 24-26, 2015**

Chapel Hill, NC

**2014 International Information:**

**International convention**

**July 28—August 1, 2014**

Indianapolis, IN

### More Member News!

**Mary Lynn Redmond**, Wake Forest University writes: The book I wrote that includes four action research studies that grad students conducted with me as the co-PI (principal investigator) has been published. The title is *Action Research in the World Language Classroom*. Hot off the press this week!! I am enjoying my term as ACTFL president-elect and so far, we have been very busy working on many exciting initiatives and getting ready for ACTFL 2013. I will begin my term as president officially January 1 and will be traveling all over the US to conferences and ACTFL events during the year. I have made good progress on the theme of the 2014 convention and keynote speaker and will be revealing more information about these soon. The 2014 convention will be in San Antonio.

**Cynthia Wooten** has been appointed as the Interim Chairperson in the Department of Curriculum & Instruction at Bennett College. Congratulations, Cynthia and thank you to Kim Pemberton for keeping us informed.

**Alice Hill** reports that her son Robert Newsome III, is back home safely from Afghanistan and daughter Page Pelphrey of Connecticut is back in a brick-and-mortar classroom after teaching online for several years.

**Sharon Page** reports that "Gary is taking me on a mystery trip to celebrate our 25th anniversary ... Quite a milestone when we got a late start! We leave Sat." We trust that the trip was wonderful!!

## Beta Delta Chapter

### BETA DELTA Project

This year we will be working with Jefferson Elementary School where one of our own Beta Delta members, Donna Harper, is assistant principal. Jefferson is a school of around 700 students with a changing ethnicity with more Afro-Americans and Hispanics each year. Donna has met with the teachers and since their budget for tutoring has been cut, they could use some tutors to listen to children read and to work with them on their math cards. There is one new second grade teacher who has no materials. She could use first and second grade level books. More information about the project will be forthcoming so be prepared to participate.

### International Literacy Day

Delta Kappa Gamma has been granted the status of a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) affiliated with the United Nations and thus joins with the UN to promote Sunday, September 8, 2013 as the United Nations' (UN) International Literacy Day. This year's theme is *Literacies for the 21st Century*. The aim of this special day is to focus attention on the need to promote worldwide literacy. Mary is already getting a headstart on Literacy Day with her grandson Duncan Henderson McClure Sharpe. See the next column for tips for promoting literacy in your schools, communities and families.



### International

### Literacy Day Tips

By: **Tomika Altman** Eta State DKG/ UN/World Fellowship Representative

Join the International Literacy Day celebration by donating books and reading materials to your local school or community center. Start a reading club, become a mentor of a non-literate person, become a pen pal to a soldier or trucker, or volunteer at your local literacy council.

As a chapter, purchase Scholastic Coupons or order books for teachers with a global theme, support a local teacher by completing a pen pal or Flat Stanley/Stella project, or donate book-making supplies (cardstock, construction paper, crayons, markers, etc.) so students can create their own stories to share with children around the world.

Don't forget to incorporate 21st Century literacy by adding some technology to this day. Since this day falls on a Sunday schedule a Skype session with a child in your family or upload a YouTube video of you reading a children's book that can be shared globally any day of the week.

Remember this is an International Literacy Day, so please do not forget to enjoy this day by reading yourself. This would be the perfect excuse to purchase that new Kindle, Nook, or iPad you've had your eye on!



## US Forum Connection #116, AUGUST 2013

### **NATIONAL WOMEN’S HISTORY MUSEUM**

Legislation entitled the National Women’s History Museum Commission Act of 2013 is currently under consideration in both the House and the Senate (H.R.863, S.398). This act would establish a commission to determine and report on possible locations (which would include whether it should be part of the Smithsonian) and develop a fund raising plan for the museum. Efforts to get either a site for a building or title to an existing building to house the museum have been pursued for over a decade. It is about time for a resolution to be made concerning this problem. Getting action on legislation can be painfully slow. For example, one of our members (Judy Jackson) worked 11 years before getting a bill concerning the age for admission to kindergarten changed via Tennessee legislation. In Mississippi a woman worked for 17 years lobbying the state legislature to establish an institution of higher education for women before she was successful.

Although the Museum does not yet have a physical edifice, it continues to provide information and educational resources for and about women. We were fortunate to have the current CEO of the National Women’s History Museum speak to us at the National Legislative Seminar held in Washington, D.C. in 2012. Many of our members have contributed to the museum financially over the years. The museum has numerous resources for teaching at its web site. To learn what is available go to <http://www.nwhm.org/education-resources/>. The site includes lesson plans on women’s suffrage and historical information about women in American history.

### **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

Steve Gilmore, Deputy Director of the Wyoming Division of Victim Services spoke at the NW Regional Conference on violence against women and noted that every state has laws on the subject. He introduced attendees to the "Power And Control Wheel" which defines the cycle of physical and mental abuse which is describes the cyclical nature of abuse. Congress recently passed national legislation on this subject which extended past legislation and also expanded those who are protected. The recently passed law still does not cover all places where violence may take place. **GOVERNMENT TEACHER RESOURCE**

The best single resource for information about national legislation is <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/thomas.php> which is maintained by the Library of Congress (Named after Thomas Jefferson). In the blue box in the upper left-hand corner of the screen is a list of teacher resources. (This reference is located next to the bottom of the list.) Clicking on this link will give the viewer a list of teacher resources including lesson plans and classroom activities. The site in general offers a place for students to develop their information gathering skills. The teacher could assign a topic on the web site for students to explore. (A hint: If you have difficulty in finding information, use the toll free number (866-327-8670) to contact the office of a senator or representative from your state and ask someone in the office for help.)

### **SCAMS ABOUND**

A recent scam which I encountered involved a telephone call informing me that an alert system notifying authorities if I had an emergency was fully paid for and wanting to arrange a time to install the system. I knew I had not paid for such a system and no one else was likely to have done so. The scam is that once the system is in place there is a monthly charge of about \$20. You might want to pass this information along to others who might be taken in by this scam.

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### **FORUM FACEBOOK PAGE LINK**

For those of you desiring discussion of legislative topics there is a U. S. Forum Facebook page online at <http://www.facebook.com/DKG.US.Forum>

### **FORUM WEB SITE <http://www.deltakappagamma.org/US-Forum/>**

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## Leadership Seminar Highlights!

This year Eta State combined the Leadership Development and Personal Growth Seminars into one Leadership Development Seminar held on June 20—23, 2013 at William Peace University in Raleigh, NC. Entitled "Leadership for All Ages and Stages", the



seminar attracted around 80 participants from across the state, including about 20 beginning teachers (1-3 years experience) who were sponsored by various chapters.

There were three "strands" offered— Leadership, Technology (concentrating on website development and newsletter editing) and Beginning Teachers.

Beta Delta was well represented by Elaine McRae, Diane Howdeshell, Sheila Groves, Ann Pember and Marcia Payne Wooten.

The General Sessions included presentations by **Dr. Kathie Harned** on "Generational Links", **Darcy Grimes** on "Teachers Leaders in Global Education" and **Dr. Paula Hildebrand**, also on "Teachers Leaders in Global Education". Presenters for the "strands" sessions included **Dr. Duchess Maye**, **Dr. Elaine Jenkins**, **Colleen Lanier**, **Lynne Leatherwood**, **Dr. Mary Cauley**, **Beth Winstead** and **Sue Roberts**.

The evenings were devoted to personal growth activities and included making



beaded bracelets, (see photo) learning the latest line dances, making "homemade" bath salts and foot scrubs, with a quick lesson on aromatherapy.

In addition to the excellent presentations and

classes, the camaraderie was outstanding and the beginning teachers received a special treat. All of the other participants in the seminar brought items that beginning teachers need to survive the first year or two; huge, recyclable shopping bags were filled to the "watch out, you'll hurt your back lifting that" level with packets of copy paper, construction paper, sticky notes, pens, pencils, scissors, glue, tissues, smiley face stickers, erasers, tape and anything else you can imagine that teachers need. The new teachers were thrilled, needless to say, and headed home with lots of ideas, helpful hints, new leadership skills and new friends, plus their goodie bags.

Last, but not least, the accommodations and food at William Peace University were very nice, a far cry from what most of us remember from our days at college.

The Leadership Development Seminar is held every other year and I highly recommend that you find



time and put it on your calendar for 2015. It was well worth my time and I plan to attend again.

Marcia Payne Wooten

(Eta State President Linda Little showing "Energizer Bunny" enthusiasm.)

## More Leadership!

Congratulations AND many thanks to Diane Howdeshell and Dori Caliguire who have stepped up to fill vacant positions of Vice-President and Secretary, respectively. As Vice-President this year, Diane will lead us as President the next year and Dori will make sure with copious note-taking that what is supposed to take place, will take place. We appreciate in advance all their efforts in the disposition of their duties. Thank you and congratulations once again.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FINAL EDUCATION BUDGET 2013-2014

*Note: The first five topics were identified at the 2012 Eta State convention as focus issues for our group. The issues that follow may be of equal importance to our members.*

**Teacher Tenure** – To be phased out for all K-12 teachers in 2018. The state would move to a contract system, with teachers getting one- to four-year contracts, depending on their proficiency. The plan also steps toward merit pay, with \$10.2 million in the second year (2014-15) to give the best teachers bonuses.

**Teaching Fellows** - continues the phase-out of the North Carolina Teaching Fellows program, which annually selected 500 promising high school seniors to receive four-year scholarships allowing them to graduate with little or no college debt in return for working in public schools for four years after graduation.

**Private School Vouchers** – provides \$10 million for the first year and \$50 million in FY2015 for private school vouchers, known as Opportunity Scholarships. Students who meet a defined income threshold and other selected eligibility criteria will be provided up to \$4,200 per year in taxpayer funding to pay for private tuition.

**Pre-Kindergarten** - shifts \$12.4 million from lottery receipts to add 2,500 North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten Program slots. That raises the total available slots to 27,500.

**School Resource Officers** – provides \$7 million in elementary and middle school and \$18.6 million to implement the Excellent Public Schools Act, which includes initiatives aimed to have all students reading at grade level by the end of third grade.

**Teacher-to-student ratios** – Will be increased to determine total funding allocated for classroom teachers. The Department of Public Instruction estimates this ratio change will result in 5,200 fewer teachers)

**Teach for America** - spends \$6 million in each of the next two years to expand Teach for America, the national corps of recent college graduates who commit to teaching for two years in public schools after a five-week summer training course.

**Teacher Assistants** - Funding for teacher assistants will be reduced by \$120 million, or about 21 percent in FY 2014 and 19% in F2015

**Master Pay for Teachers** – strips the salary boost for teachers with advanced degrees, unless required for the teaching position, beginning in FY2015

**Teacher Raises** - The budget includes no raises for state employees or teachers, but they will get an extra five days of vacation.

**Digital Teaching Tools** – State Board of Education to develop a program to instruct teachers and administrators in digital teaching tools

**Cursive and Times Tables** – Requires students to learn cursive and memorize multiplication tables

**Home Schools** – definition broadened and parents or guardians no longer have to provide instruction. Parents determining the course of instruction and additional sources of education would meet this definition

**Charter Schools** – establishes priority and procedures for students applying to charter schools and makes changes to what qualifies as a material revision to a charter application; creates a charter school advisory board; says that only 50% of teachers in a charter school must have a teaching license; requires those teaching math, science, social studies and language arts to be college graduates

**Health Education** – must now include abortion as a preventable cause of preterm birth in future pregnancies

**School Buses** – reduces funding for bus replacement and requires buses to be in use for 20 years or incurred 200,000 miles before qualifying for replacement funding.

### Community College/UNC System

Tuition:

**University**—raise tuition by 12.3 percent next year for out-of-state students attending University of North Carolina campuses in Chapel Hill, Wilmington, Greensboro, and Winston-Salem. Out-of-state tuition would rise 6 percent at other campuses;

**Community College** - increase community college tuition this year from \$69 to \$71.50 per credit hour for residents, or a maximum of \$80 per year for full-time students.

**NC Back-to-Work Program** - provide \$4.8 million in one-time money for NC Back-to-Work program, a retraining program for the long-term unemployed in the community college system.

**Community College Senior Waiver** - eliminate the community college tuition waiver for senior citizens, a \$970,000 annual cost that had allowed residents 65 or older to take some courses free.

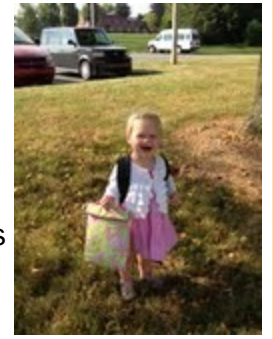
Continued on page 8



Take a mini-vacation by looking at these beautiful flowers and the lovely venue for

Melissa Harrelson's daughter's wedding.

Back to school!!!! According to **Ann Pember** we should all be as excited about returning to school as her granddaughter is on her first day of preschool.



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<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2013/07/22/4180356/state-budget-would-end-teacher.html#storylink=cpy>  
[http://www.news-record.com/blogs/north\\_state\\_politics/article\\_8ecdd674-f2c7-11e2-ad5b-001a4bcf6878.html?mode=jqm](http://www.news-record.com/blogs/north_state_politics/article_8ecdd674-f2c7-11e2-ad5b-001a4bcf6878.html?mode=jqm)  
<http://www.starnewsonline.com/article/20130724/ARTICLES/13072979?p=2&tc=pg>

<http://pulse.ncpolicywatch.org/2013/07/22/overview-final-budget-deal-falls-short-puts-north-carolina-on-a-path-to-mediocrity/#sthash.F0j4SVJn.dpuf>

A sampling of new North Carolina laws. (2013, July 28). The Charlotte Observer, p. 11A. North Carolina General Assembly. (2013). North Carolina General Statutes. Retrieved July 29, 2013 from [www.ncleg.net/gascript/statutes/statutes.asp](http://www.ncleg.net/gascript/statutes/statutes.asp).

#### Keeping Our Members Informed

Beta Delta sisters, please share your news about travel, family, personal accomplishments and photos too. Submit newsletter contributions to:

Beta Delta Newsletter Committee  
c/o Mary Sharpe  
madsharpe@aol.com  
or  
c/o/ Marcia Payne Wooten,  
mpwooten1@gmail.com

The **Beta Delta Chapter Board** held a planning retreat at the home of Marcia Payne Wooten in Hamptonville, NC on August 8th. Much was accomplished before and even



after a "salad" buffet lunch, with various types of scrumptious salads being contributed by the members of the board.

Mary Sharpe, Diane Howdeshell, Donna Ray, Elaine

McRae, Ann Pember, Melissa Harrelson, Jane Mitchell and Sharon Page were in attendance.

#### An Opinion Worth Reading

Follow this link (or copy and paste) to read an editorial by Alan Brown, published recently in the News and Record entitled "Public servants should be supporting education".

[http://m.news-record.com/opinion/columns/article\\_b562d598-faf4-11e2-b408-0019bb30f31a.html?mode=jqm](http://m.news-record.com/opinion/columns/article_b562d598-faf4-11e2-b408-0019bb30f31a.html?mode=jqm)

Recommended by **Mary Lynn Redmond**.

#### Mission Statement of the Society

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