

LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD

Gamma Alpha Chapter

April 21, 2018

The Lifetime Service Award was started by Dr. Dorothy Sample, State President 2015-2017. The purpose of the Lifetime Service Award is to honor women who have been members of DKG for 50 years or are eighty years old for the service to DKG and the contributions to education.

Elizabeth H. Bunner Member since 1965



Elizabeth attained both her undergraduate and Master's degrees from Ball State University. She taught mostly 5th grade throughout her 35 year teaching career, but she has taught all levels of elementary education throughout her tenure. She taught in Indiana and retired in 1987. Elizabeth's daughter, Linda, reports that her mother was a wonderful elementary school teacher who was loved by her students.

Elizabeth was thrilled and honored when asked to join DKG back in 1968. She served as president of her chapter in New Castle, Indiana, and attended several state and international conferences. She encouraged other teachers to join as well.

Elizabeth loves to garden and tend her flowers. She has raised chickens in the past and was a farmer's wife. Some of her travels have taken her to Europe, Canada, Alaska, and Hawaii. For 20 years she taught a weekly Bible fellowship study class. She has been a member of the New Castle Friends Meeting for over 70 years and was very involved in church projects.

Marie Canzoneri Member since 1988



Marie attained her B.A. degree from Marygrove College, and her Master's degree from Eastern Michigan University. She taught upper elementary school for 32 1/2 years, and has been retired for 23 years from Livonia schools. Marie enjoyed teaching reading through a variety of means; such as having her students put on plays. After retiring, Marie continued her education and became a travel consultant, and enjoyed her new post-retirement life. Marie willingly accepted the nomination for Chapter President even though she had only been a member for a few years. She was the first to serve for two terms. Marie was our Gamma Alpha Chapter Woman of Distinction in 1993. Marie has traveled extensively, and especially enjoys cruising. She has traveled to the Orient, Alaska, Hawaii, and Easter and Western Caribbean. Marie is a grandmother of four and a great grandmother of three!

Carol A. Holland Member since 1981



Carol attained her B.S. degree from Heidelberg College (Tiffin, Ohio), and her Master's degree from Eastern Michigan University. Carol taught both reading readiness and first grade in Livonia schools for many years. She had the opportunity to develop a program at Buchanan Elementary for first graders who needed more reading skills before continuing on to second grade. She retired in 1996 from Tyler Elementary School in Livonia. In her post-teaching life, Carol belongs to Beyond Belief Senior Theatre Troupe and they produce Main Stage Variety Shows each fall. She says the "Young at Heart" cast ranges in age from 57 to 92 and they have one common goal "Sharing the Joy of Music." Carol also keeps busy volunteering at the Northville Public Library.

Carol was Gamma Alpha's Second Vice President for two biennia. She chaired the World Fellowship Committee for many years and always volunteered to help at our annual auction. Carol received Gamma Alpha's Chapter's Woman of Distinction award in both 2000 and 2007. In her retirement, Carol loves to read and knit, although not at the same time! She also loves to travel, especially in Michigan. And she is a big Tigers fan as well! Two of Carol's four grown children have become educators. She is the proud grandmother of 9 grandchildren and one great grandson.

Barbara Broadley Member since 1980



Barbara graduated from the University of Michigan with a B.A. degree and a M.A. from Eastern Michigan University in Special Education. She retired from Livonia Public Schools in 2000. She taught elementary and special education in the Resource Room in Coolidge, Marshall, Washington, Hoover, and Hayes. She has enjoyed painting since I retired...acrylics, watercolors, etc. She loves having the time to travel. She and her husband especially like taking cruises. She loves gardening and sitting on the deck and admiring the results of her "work." She golfs two or three times a week. However, she says her score always stays the same.

F. Jose Engel Member since 1974



Jose attended the University of Michigan and received her B.A. Her M.A. was earned at Michigan State University, so Jose bleeds green and blue! She has credits from CMU, WSU, OU, U of Detroit, and Lawrence Tech. Jose taught in Berkley at Burton Elementary and Anderson Middle School, and Bloomfield Hills East and West Junior High for a total of 37 years. She scored and timed girls' and boys' athletic games (track, basketball, volleyball, and wrestling) in Bloomfield Hills for 40 years.

Esther Loskowske Member since 1980



Esther Loskowske attended Eastern Michigan University, where she earned both her BA and MA. She taught second grade for 43 years in Wayne-Westland and was the kind of teacher any parent would want for their children. Esther was a dedicated curriculum leader, serving on the district's Language Arts committees. She also contributed to a summer reading program that ensured children had access to books during their time off. In 2002, she was recognized as the W-W Teacher of the Year.

After her retirement, Esther volunteered as a Story Lady, along with other members of Gamma Alpha, reading several times a year at Elliott Elementary in Wayne-Westland. The Story Ladies donate books to classrooms and provide students with a reading incentive reward during each visit.

Esther loves animals and shares her home with cats, dogs, a starling, and a house chicken. She enjoys gardening and spends a lot of time digging in the dirt and weeding. Esther also participated in bowling with her fellow women teachers and enjoyed the camaraderie on their tournament trips. Although she claims her bowling scores weren't great, she appreciated the dinners and shopping that accompanied the trips.

Inducted into DKG in 1980, 2024 will mark her 44th year of membership. Until health issues arose, Esther was very active in Gamma Alpha. She served as Recording Secretary and chaired numerous chapter committees. She assisted the Yearbook Editor and edited the chapter newsletter during the early days of Gamma Alpha. Esther was also an active participant in Metro Council, helping to plan events and attending them.

At the state level, Esther served on several committees, including Membership, Professional Affairs, and Personal Growth. She contributed to writing the Founders' Ceremonies for State Conventions.

Fran Saenz Member since 1980

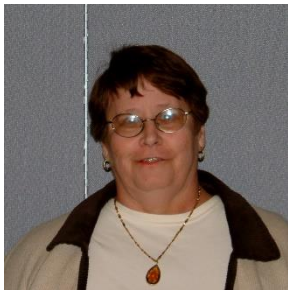


Mary Frances "Fran" Saenz attended Wayne State University, where she earned both her Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts degrees. She taught fifth and sixth-grade gifted students at Webster Elementary in Livonia Public Schools. Although she has stepped away from the classroom, her passion for teaching remains strong. During her summer breaks, Fran taught water aerobics at the Livonia YMCA until it closed a few years ago. She currently continues to offer water aerobics classes during the summer at the Burton Hollow Swim Club in Livonia. Fran has also led water aerobics sessions at state conferences, and one of the perks of this role is that there are no papers to correct!

Notably, Fran is the oldest member of her women's synchronized swim team. She enjoys being in the water and believes it helps her stay in shape. Additionally, Fran is an active member of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and the Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel (MARSP). She was inducted into Delta Kappa Gamma (DKG) in 1980, marking her 44th year of membership this year.

Fran has played an active role in the Gamma Alpha chapter of DKG. She served as Chapter President from 1988 to 1990 and again from 2008 to 2010, along with holding various other offices and participating in chapter committees. As Chapter President, she was part of the Metro Council Board, where she helped plan council events. At the state level, Fran served as the Visitation Chair, transporting State President Jackie Smart to various chapter events. She humorously likened their trips around the state to "Thelma and Louise." Fran also took pictures and wrote brief articles about the visitations for the Wolverine newsletter, a practice that other Visitation Chairs appreciated and continued.

Alice Duke - Member Since 1984



Alice Duke was inducted into Gamma Alpha in 1984 and served as Chapter President from 1994 to 1998. In 1996, she was honored as Gamma Alpha's Chapter Woman of Distinction. Alice has been very active in Gamma Alpha since her induction, serving on numerous committees and chairing the Personal Growth and Development and Professional Affairs committees. She has also chaired two auctions and helped to plan the Birthday Dinners. Additionally, Alice contributed to one of our seminars and served as registrar for the

state convention in Troy.

Alice retired in 1999 and moved to St. Helen. She graduated from Eastern Michigan University in 1966 with a Bachelor of Science degree and earned her Master of Arts in 1968. She taught for twenty-seven years in the Wayne-Westland School District, participating in various committees such as Metric, Report Card, Math/Science, School Improvement, and other curriculum development efforts. Alice has taught all grades from first to sixth, but she has spent many of her years teaching third grade.

In her free time, Alice enjoys reading, especially mysteries, romance, and historical fiction. She has two grown children, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. She exercises almost daily, goes bowling, attends cooking shows, enjoys plays, and occasionally visits the casino. Alice also likes to go on short trips with her church group and the senior center. She has taken several trips to Amish country in Indiana with friends and family. While the weather can sometimes be challenging, she strives to stay busy despite her health issues.

Alice says, "I find Delta Kappa Gamma to be most rewarding, both professionally and personally. The fellowship of this group has been a special part of my life."



Marcia Scarr, Charter President, Member since 1979

Marcia Scarr was initiated as one of the Charter Members of Delta Kappa Gamma, Gamma Alpha, on April 2, 1979. The Farmington chapter, Beta Eta, took the initiative to create a new chapter composed of women educators from Livonia, Wayne-Westland, and Garden City. Marcia recalls, "I'm not sure any of us truly understood what this was all about."

When Marcia was nominated to be Gamma Alpha's first President, she attempted to decline due to her busy schedule as the principal of a new school. However, she was told that in Delta Kappa Gamma, the answer is never "No." Thus, Marcia became the first President of Gamma Alpha in the middle of a biennium.

Marcia remembers the first state convention her chapter attended, which was held at the Hyatt Regency in Dearborn. "It was a wonderful bonding time for several of us," she says. "In those days, we were strongly encouraged to dress correctly—suits or dresses, hats, and gloves for luncheons, and formal gowns for the Saturday night dinner and Parade of Presidents."

The state was caught off guard when they established the Gamma Alpha Chapter. "We began challenging the expectations around formal attire and later contested the decision to hold the State Convention at the Partlind Hotel in Grand Rapids due to the owners' anti-education stance," Marcia shares. "For the first several years, we were referred to as the 'new babies.' Paula Dent, Betty Brogan, Betsey Cooper, and Kathryn Walker all took us under their wings and nurtured us. We were both the new babies and the rebels all wrapped into one!"

Certainly, Marcia's influence, alongside that of the other founding members, was felt. Women no longer felt the need to dress so formally, but a standard of professionalism remained in place.

Marcia graduated from Wayne State University in 1961. She started her teaching career in Livonia, where she taught upper elementary grades for nine and a half years. She then served as a Teacher of the Gifted for six and a half years, during which she developed educational programs in Livonia and spoke across the state of Michigan. In 1977, she became the principal of Lincoln Elementary in Livonia and served as Assistant Principal at Stevenson High School in 1978. The following year, Marcia left Livonia to become Principal of Silver Springs in Northville, where she remained for four years. In 1983, she was appointed Director of Curriculum and, in 1984, became principal of Maple Elementary in Walled Lake. Marcia took on the role of principal at Hickory Woods in January 1991 and retired in June 1994 after 33 years in education, during which she opened many schools and packed countless boxes during her moves. She loved her years as a teacher and principal, working hard and long hours.

"Being a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, Gamma Alpha has been a rewarding experience," Marcia states. "Serving as the first president, navigating the challenges of what this organization was all about, and communicating that to both new and old members was quite a

task. I'm glad we made it through those tough early years. I am personally very proud of the group we have become. While I haven't been as active in recent years, I have always felt that my absence was understood, and I could return whenever I wanted. The warmth of our chapter has been second to none."

Margie Sievert, Member since 2018



Margie Sievert joined Gamma Alpha in 2018 and has made significant contributions to our chapter since her very first day. With a background in education, Margie taught fifth and sixth grades in Florida, where she developed a passion for nurturing young minds. After relocating to Michigan, she continued her teaching career in Livonia, further refining her skills and commitment to education before transitioning to focus on her growing family.

As her children arrived, Margie redirected her educational enthusiasm toward active involvement in the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA). She served as PTA President at Moraine Elementary and Meads Mill Middle Schools, working tirelessly to foster community support for students and families. Additionally, she took on the role of Coordinating Council PTA President for Northville Public Schools, ensuring a cohesive and effective PTA presence across the district. Her engagement also extended to the Northville High School Coordinating Council, where she contributed to important decisions affecting high school students.

Following her initiation into Gamma Alpha, Margie quickly became a key member, rarely missing meetings or events. Her dedication is evident in her service on the Service Projects Committee, where she proactively shops for supplies and special gifts for the girls at Beverly House, an organization dedicated to supporting young women in need. Margie also graciously hosted one of our recent planning meetings in her beautifully decorated home, creating a warm and welcoming environment for collaboration.

For the past two biennia, Margie has served as Co-Recording Secretary, diligently taking notes during meetings and helping maintain accurate records. She frequently captures moments at our events, contributing her photography skills to create an engaging newsletter that highlights our activities. Margie's commitment to our chapter goes beyond local efforts; she actively participates at the state level by attending the DKG State Convention, representing our chapter with pride.

Her dependable nature and proactive "can-do" spirit make her an invaluable member of our organization. We are incredibly grateful to have Margie as part of our team, knowing we can always count on her support and enthusiasm in our endeavors. Margie is the official photographer for meetings, too. Margie is a truly valued member who considers her membership in Delta Kappa Gamma an honor. She especially cherishes the friendships of her Gamma Alpha sisters. Margie Sievert received the 2025 Chapter Woman of Distinction.

Carol Anderson, Member since 1997



Carol declared her intention to become a teacher in fourth grade, inspired by her mother, who taught in a one-room schoolhouse during the 1930s. Her mother served as a powerful role model, igniting Carol's lifelong passion for education. Carol began her teaching career in 1966 while still a student at Madonna College. Parochial schools accepted education students who could obtain a special temporary certificate, allowing them to start teaching. She loved her experience teaching fourth graders, which remains one of her favorite grades.

After four years of teaching, Carol married and took a short break from her career to attend graduate school at Marygrove College. She was grateful for a supportive husband who allowed her to study full-time. After earning her Master's degree, she found the job market challenging, with more applicants than available teaching positions. At that point, she and her husband decided to start a family, and she substitute-taught for a few years.

In 1977, she began working part-time at Wayne-Westland Schools. This experience was transformative for her; she worked in an alternative education program with adults who had never attended school and teenagers who were reluctant learners. Carol returned to graduate school to earn an endorsement in special education, a field in desperate need of teachers. Eventually, she was offered a full-time position with Wayne-Westland Schools, where she taught for the remainder of her career. She developed a deep affection for her students—a sentiment shared by many in this room.

Carol was inducted into the Gamma Alpha Chapter in 1997, sponsored by Grace Morgan. Her fellow inductees included Judi Fisher and Helen Mate. She served as Recording Secretary for three different biennia and demonstrated her excellent listening skills. Additionally, she has served as Vice President and was elected Chapter President in 2010. At the state level, she held the position of Co-Chair for Funding Our Purposes and contributed her services to Gamma Alpha's annual auction for more years than she can remember.

After retiring, Carol missed interacting with children, so she taught with the Plymouth Literacy Council for four years, working with adults facing learning challenges. As her grandchildren began school, she volunteered regularly in their classrooms. Now, she is one of the "Story Ladies" at Elliott in Wayne-Westland. Even after 21 years of retirement, Carol continues to identify as a teacher.

Carole Lower, Member since 2012



Carole graduated with pride from Michigan State University, eager to embark on her journey as an elementary school teacher. After welcoming her first child into the world, she took a brief hiatus from her career but remained passionately engaged in the field of education. A dedicated member of the Mother's Club of Northville, she actively supported enriching projects for Northville Public Schools, all while volunteering her time at both her children's schools and now at her grandchildren's institutions. After re-entering the teaching profession for what she affectionately calls her "second career," Carole enjoyed a fulfilling retirement in 2012.

In 2012, Carole became a member of Gamma Alpha and quickly immersed herself in the organization's vibrant community. She has proudly held the roles of Vice President for Membership and Co-President of the Gamma Alpha Chapter, showcasing her leadership skills and commitment. Currently, she chairs the Personal Growth and Service Projects Committee, where her enthusiasm and dedication shine. Carole is a familiar face at meetings and state conventions, fostering connections and camaraderie among members. Many of our holiday happy hours have been graciously hosted in the warmth of her beautiful home, where laughter and friendship abound.

An avid traveler, Carole recently indulged in a delightful week exploring the picturesque landscapes of Ireland alongside a few of her Gamma Alpha sisters. Together, they even enjoy season tickets to the renowned Detroit Symphony Orchestra, creating cherished memories through their shared love of music. Carole Lower is a treasured member of the Gamma Alpha Chapter and a beacon of positivity and support in her community.

Judi Fisher, Member since 1997



Judi earned her Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from Adrian College and later obtained her Master's from Eastern Michigan University. After dedicating 37 years to teaching at Monroe Elementary and Hayes Elementary Schools in Livonia, she retired in 2003. However, her passion for education didn't end there; she continued to inspire young minds as a substitute teacher for the next 14 years. Alongside her classroom responsibilities, Judi also took the reins of the community education invaluable opportunities for local children to learn an important life skill.

In 1997, Judi was inducted as a member of Gamma Alpha. She quickly established herself as an exemplary leader within the Gamma Alpha chapter. She readily attended state and international events. She served as President for three terms, guiding the organization with dedication and vision. Her enthusiasm for committee work is evident. She has been part of the

Service Projects Committee. One of the service projects is Seedlings Braille Books for Children. Judi has manned the auction table for Seedlings during Bowling for Braille and chaired their Christmas card sales. She has volunteered to bind Braille books. Judi thoughtfully arranged numerous engaging, entertaining, and informative speakers for our monthly meetings. Furthermore, her involvement with the state organization is notable. She has chaired Personal Growth and Services, World Fellowship, Scholarship, Funding Our Purposes, Personnel, and Visitation committees. She has been a member of the Nominations Committee. Registration Chair for both Fall Workshops and the Spring Convention on ten occasions! Whew!

A passionate traveler, Judi delights in exploring new destinations, particularly by cruise. In recent years, she and her husband, Tom, have embarked on memorable voyages to breathtaking locations such as Hawaii, Greenland, and the Caribbean, creating cherished memories. When at home, Judi enjoys the calming art of knitting and the strategic challenge of playing bridge, finding joy in both creativity and camaraderie.

We are incredibly fortunate to have Judi Fisher as a member of Gamma Alpha, where her spirit and dedication truly enhance our community.

Judy Morante, Member since 2009



Judy Morante joined Gamma Alpha in 2009, quickly establishing herself as an invaluable member of our chapter. From her very first day, her dedication and passion have profoundly impacted our community. After teaching in Wayne-Westland for some time, she found her true calling at Thurston High School in South Redford, where she inspired students by teaching Spanish at all levels and guiding the Student Council class.

Judy's adventurous spirit shone through as she organized various international trips for her students, broadening their horizons and creating unforgettable experiences. Following her retirement, Judy continued to share her love for the Spanish language as a part-time instructor at Schoolcraft College. Additionally, she played a vital role in monitoring AP Exams for her former district. With her daughters working in Wayne-Westland Schools, Judy demonstrated her commitment to education by volunteering at their schools and engaging in community projects alongside her Schoolcraft students.

Since her initiation into our chapter, Judy has been a beacon of enthusiasm and participation, rarely missing a meeting or event. As the Service Projects Chair, she brought new life to our initiatives by introducing the Beverly House—a group home that supports young women attending Wayne-Westland Schools. Her compassion and dedication have led her to organize numerous activities and gather essential donations for these girls throughout the year. From shopping for winter coats and hoodies to arranging a pampering mani-pedi trip, Judy has gone above and beyond to ensure the girls feel valued and cared for. She has also gained access to local recreational activities, organized a fun day at a corn maze last fall, facilitated bicycle repairs, treated the girls to a special lunch at their favorite restaurant, and delivered bags of

summer activity supplies to brighten their days. Judy was elected Co-President for the 2024-2026 biennium and is doing a wonderful job.

Judy is a cherished member of our chapter and a source of inspiration for all who know her. She holds her membership in Delta Kappa Gamma close to her heart, deeply valuing the friendships and connections she has forged. As a devoted mother, loving wife, and actively involved grandmother, Judy truly embodies the spirit of our organization.