

Gamma Alpha Bulletin

"The G.A.B."

Inside this issue:

Forms Included: 2004-2005 Calendar Membership Form Fall Workshop Registration Chapter Information Brochure	
Legislation	5
President's Message	2
International Update	2
Minutes	2
Birthdays	5
Member Contributions	3, 4

Reminders

- Check out our website at: www.migammaalpha.org for calendar, photos, awards, meeting information, forms and useful links.
- Although State dues have increased, our chapter dues are the same. Mail to Cindy Dietz or bring to the first meeting.
\$73 for Active Members
\$58 for Retired Members
- Bring **vacation souvenir** to 9/23 meeting. Proceeds go to the World Fellowship Fund. Wear your pin and nametag.
- Seek out a prospective member and bring her to the October meeting. Fill out *Recommendation for Membership* form and bring it to the Sept. meeting.

Lessons from Geese for Gamma Alpha!

This fall, when you see geese heading south for the winter flying in a V formation, you might consider what science has discovered as to why they fly that way. As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in V formation, the whole flock has at least 71% greater flying range that if each bird flew on its own. State President Judy Foster shared this story at a PAC meeting.



People who share a common direction and sense of common purpose can get where they're going more quickly and easily because they are traveling on the thrust of one another. When a goose flies out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front. It's harder to do something alone than together. When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies point at the head.

It is sensible to take turns doing demanding jobs. Shared leadership and interdependence give us each a chance to lead as well as opportunities to rest.

The geese in formation honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed. What do we say when we honk from behind? We need to make sure our honking is encouraging and not discouraging.

Finally, and this is important, when a goose gets sick or wounded and falls out of formation, two other geese will fall out with that goose and follow it down to lend help and protection. They stay with the fallen goose until it is able to fly or it dies, and only then do they launch out on their own, or with another formation to catch up with their flock.

If we have the sense of a goose, we will stand by our colleagues and each other in difficult times as well as in good. Let's celebrate the Golden Goose Award as a way to acknowledge one another for being a good team member.

Judi's Gems



Dear Gamma Alpha Sisters,

As I begin my second bien-nium as president, I am more confident and relaxed than I was two years ago. I have gotten to know many of you better these past two years through your chapter involvement. Working on a committee is a good way to get involved and meet people. I propose we all get to know one another a little better at chapter meetings, too. Meetings are a time to renew friendships with colleagues and retired friends, but I suggest we try to mix and mingle and make new members feel welcome.

I would like to see more Gamma Alpha members attending State and International functions. I have just returned from the International Convention and I have lots of information and ideas to share. I have made many friends with women I have met at State Executive Board. It is nice to attend these meetings and know someone. Signing up for a committee is another way to get involved at the State level. I am a member of the State Leadership Committee. Jackie is chair of the State Legislation Committee. Cindy Dietz is a member of the State Legislation Committee.

On **August 17** at 10:00, I will host pre-Fall Workshop meeting at my home. Tasks will be assigned and envelopes registration envelopes prepared. If attending, **please RSVP** at (248) 349-7105 by 8/15 so lunch can be provided. On **September 10-11**, all of you will have the opportunity to get involved at the State level. Since the Fall Workshop is being held in Livonia at the Holiday Inn near Laurel Park there can be no excuses that the location is not convenient. Another reason to attend is that Gamma Alpha has been instrumental in providing "local talent" for several of the workshops (Chef Larry, Seedlings, St. Mary's Community Outreach, Greenmead One Room School-houses to name a few!) Jackie, Cindy and I will be involved in workshop presentations as well. I am the registrar and our chapter is in charge of registration. We need members to man the registration table Friday evening and Saturday. Everyone who attends needs to register for the Fall Workshop (\$35). This covers lunch and workshop costs. The registration forms are in the *Wolverine* and in the newsletter. See you on August 17 and at Fall Workshop.

Judi

Minutes in a Minute

Minutes for June 3, 2004



Meeting called to order at 4 p.m. at Hayes Elementary School by President Judi Fisher. There were 9 members in attendance.

The calendar for 2004-2005 was decided upon. It was suggested that World Fellowship could begin collecting **50 cents every time** someone forgets either their nametag or pin. This will begin in the fall with the first meeting.

Calendar was decided. The dates are:

August 17th 10 a.m. meeting at Judi Fisher's to get things ready for the Fall Workshop.

September 10-11 State Fall Workshop at Holiday Inn at Laurel Park. See *Wolverine* for details.

September 23rd Meeting at William Ford Vocational Tech Center. Meeting starts at 4:30.

October 28th Meeting at William Ford Vocational Tech Center. Meeting starts at 4:30.

December 2nd Meeting at William Ford Vocational Tech Center. Meeting starts at 4:30.

February 10th Meeting at William Ford Vocational Tech Center. Meeting starts at 4:30.

March Reading/Tutoring Month each week at Wayne County Family Center

April 15-17 State Convention Crown Plaza Grand Rapids

May 5th Birthday Dinner

See Jackie's notes on the calendar handout about topics for each of the meetings. Chris Smith will be contacting Chef Tony to get prices for snacks and/or buffet dinner. The prices will be available prior to our September 23rd meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Smith, Recording Secretary

International Update

*Largest Bequest
In
Society History*



Lucile Cornetet, member of Beta Lambda Chapter, Columbus, Ohio, bequeathed \$1,034,000 to the Society. This gift is the largest one ever granted to The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.

From newly designed Society website www.deltakappagamma.org

Are You An Old Detroiter?



- You took a "moonlight cruise" to Bob-Lo with Captain Bob-Lo or went to Edgewater Amusement Park.
- You shopped at Hughes and Hatcher, B Siegel, Peck and Peck, Himelhoch's, Robert Hall, Crowley's, Shoppers Fair, EJ Korvettes or Federals.
- You rode the elevator at J. L. Hudson's, which was "run" by an elevator operator.
- You remember a Winkleman's and Sanders store in your neighborhood.
- You remember the "Big Snow", Buffalo Bob, Howdy Doody, Clarabelle, Phineas T. Bluster, Princess Summer-Fall-Winter-Spring.
- You remember Twin Pines Dairy delivered milk and juice to the chute on the side of your house and Milky the Clown performed magic with the magic words "Twin Pines".
- You remember the Good Humor man in a white uniform, ringing the bells as he drove down your street.
- You remember Olympia Stadium.
- You remember when Vernors was made on Woodward Ave., and a bearded troll was on the bottle.
- Your Mom got groceries at Great Scott, Food Fair, Wrigley's or Chatham.
- Your Mom saved Holden Red Stamps, S&H Green stamps, or Gold Bell Gift stamps, and you licked them into those little books.
- Kresge's and Woolworth's were "Dime Stores".
- You had an uncle in the furniture business (Joshua Door).
- You know who Bill Kennedy is.
- You saw the Detroit Lions play football in Tiger Stadium.
- You remember Black Bart and the Faygo song. Or how about "Which way did he go? He went for Faygo, old fashion root beer".
- You watched Rita Bell's prize movies in the morning.
- You remember Jack LeGoff and Van Patrick.
- You remember Milky the Clown, Soupy Sales, Johnny Ginger, Poopdeck Paul, Captain Jolly, Sagebrush Shorty and maybe even Sergeant Sakto Salute.
- You visited the Wonder Bread Bakery and got to take home a mini loaf of bread.
- You remember "Get on the right track at 9 mile and Mack, to get the best deal in town. Roy O'Brian-it's the best deal in town".
- You remember going to Detroit Edison with your Mom to exchange burned out light bulbs for new ones.

Thanks to Colleen R. for this trip down memory lane (for some of us!)

Healthy Cooking



Key West Grilled Salmon

- 1/3 cup lime juice (about 2 limes)
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon celery seeds
- 1/8 teaspoon black pepper
- Few drops hot pepper sauce
- 4 salmon steaks (1 1/2 pounds total), each 3/4-inch thick
- 1/4 cup chopped green onion

1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
1 tablespoon water
1/4 teaspoon honey

Combine lime juice, oil, salt, celery seeds, black pepper and hot-pepper sauce in a small bowl. Place salmon in a shallow dish. Pour 1/4-cup lime juice mixture over fish; turn to coat. Refrigerate 10 minutes, turning once. Reserve remaining mixture for sauce.

Prepare a charcoal grill with hot coals, or heat a gas grill to high, or heat broiler. Position the grill rack 6 inches from coals or broiler pan 3 inches from heat.

Stir green onion, lemon juice, water and honey into reserved lime juice mixture.

Grease grill rack or rack of a shallow roasting pan. Place salmon on rack. Drizzle with half of lime juice mixture from marinade dish. Grill over hot coals on covered grill 2 minutes per side or until cooked through, or broil 4 minutes per side. Serve salmon with green onion sauce.

Recipe Summary

Difficulty: Medium

Prep Time: 25 minutes

Cook Time: 8 minutes

Yield: 4 servings

Recipe courtesy *Family Circle Magazine*

Book Review



Eats, Shoots, and Leaves The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation!

By Lynne Truss

All teachers and those who naturally correct things should read *Eats, Shoots, and Leaves The Zero Tolerance Approach to*

Punctuation! It is a best seller in the UK, is a narrative history of punctuation. What makes this book a good read is that it is witty, thought-provoking, and brief. Ms. Truss claims that with the advent of e-mail and text messaging, proper punctuation is an endangered species.

Ms. Truss is passionate about punctuation. She confesses to an urgent desire to be the militant wing of the Apostrophe Protection Society, to the extent that she once attempted to demonstrate to the cinema-going public with the aid of an apostrophe on a stick how easy it would be to make the film title "Two Weeks Notice" grammatical. It is all too obvious that many people do not know how to use this little mark: "Why else," Ms. Truss argues, "would they open a large play area for children, hang up a sign saying 'Giant Kid's Playground', and then wonder why everybody stays away from it? (Answer: everyone is scared of the Giant Kid.)"

Her internal anguish sometimes boils over. "No matter that you have a PhD and have read all of Henry James twice. If you still persist in writing, 'Good food at it's best', you deserve to be struck by lightning, hacked up on the spot and buried in an unmarked grave." A little extreme, I feel: boiling in oil would be quite sufficient.

Here is an excerpt.

"A Panda walked into a café. He ordered a sandwich, ate it, then pulled out a gun and shot the waiter. 'Why?' groaned the injured man. 'The Panda shrugged, tossed him a badly punctuated wildlife manual and walked out. And sure enough, when the waiter consulted the book, he found an explanation. 'Panda,' read the entry for his assailant. 'Large black and white native to China. Eats, shoots and leaves.'"



Legislative Update



Michigan Education Association
P.O. Box 2573
East Lansing, MI 48826-2573
MEA Votes E-Newsletter July 22, 2004
www.meavotes.org

ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL AMERICA'S CHILDREN

When Congress reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) in 2002, sweeping changes were made in an attempt to bring nationwide accountability to public education. While the sentiments of the law are admirable - no child *should* be left behind - the details of the law make it a detriment to students and educators. Read below to learn more about how No Child's one-size-fits-all approach hurts America's students.

1. A One-Size-Fits-All Approach

The law demands that all children learn at the same rate, in the same way, largely without regard to individual differences and needs. It removes discretion for teachers and parents in determining what works best in the classroom. It is narrowing the curriculum in classrooms throughout the country. We believe every child should be treated as unique and deserving of individualized instruction.

2. Undermines Teacher Quality

The law discourages experienced teachers from staying in the classroom while promoting alternative teaching programs that don't require adequate training about how students learn. It makes it harder for schools in rural areas to respond to teacher shortages. We support qualified teachers for every classroom through real professional development, mentoring programs for new teachers, thorough evaluation, and incentives for teachers to work in schools that face the greatest challenges.

3. High-Stakes Standardized Tests

The law requires schools to focus on two high-stakes, standardized tests - rather than measuring individual student progress through homework, class participation, projects, and testing over time. And if just a few children don't do well on these two tests - or even if a few children don't show up to take the test - the whole school can be labeled "failing." Schools are even limited in how they can use test scores, preventing them from measuring student growth over time and instead basing everything on how students do on one single day. We support standardized tests as one of a range of effective tools for assessing each student's learning progress.

4. Fails Good Schools and Punishes Struggling Ones

The law labels schools as "failing" if just a few students do not do well on a high-stakes standardized test. Already, more than 27,000 schools, including many of the nation's top "blue ribbon" schools, have been tarred with labels under the new federal rules. Schools that face the greatest challenges will have their funding cut and their staff punished even if they are making significant progress. We believe teachers and student should be held to high expectations and the achievement gap must be closed, but every school must have the resources - such as small class sizes and up-to-date books and materials - to help each student succeed.

5. More Bureaucrats, More Bureaucracy

Under the law, bureaucrats at the federal and state level set rules, tote up on high-stakes test score, and dictate penalties for schools that don't meet federal quotas. And the law requires states to waste limited resources on more tests, paperwork, and bureaucracy. We believe that the people closest to the schools—teachers, principals, and parents—should have the flexibility to teach as children learn best.

6. Small Steps with Special Needs Students

Only recently, under pressure from parents across the country, have policy makers provided limited flexibility under the law for students with disabilities and English-language learners. Failure to take this com-

(Continued on page 6)

July Birthdays

12 Valerie Penn

16 Suzanne Bacinski

20 Carol Holland

21 Judy Handley

August Birthdays

1 Sue Briody

11 Joan Cady

18 Abby Roach

20 Grace Morgan

September Birthdays

9 Cindy Dietz

19 Helen Mate

30 Jackie Smart

(If I left you off the birthday list, please let me know.)

(Continued from page 5)

mon-sense step sooner meant “failing” labels for thousands of schools. We believe any school that failed now-outdated standards should have the right to be reevaluated to ensure no school is inaccurately labeled.

7. Unfunded Mandates

NCLB sets the wrong priorities, requiring states and school districts to spend more for paperwork and bureaucracy – even as states are cutting resources for things we know work: smaller class sizes, qualified teachers and education support professionals, and up-to-date books and materials. The mandates are a lose-lose proposition. Troubled schools are left behind and more successful schools become overcrowded. We believe the federal government should be a partner in helping states meet the needs of each individual student, not divert critical resources away from teaching and learning.

How you can help fix this broken law

Now that you know what’s wrong with the law, speak up, speak out and get involved. Here are some things teachers, support professionals, parents and communities can do to fix the law:

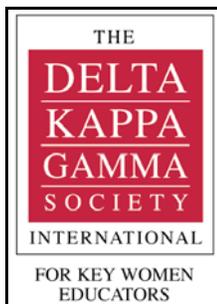
- LEARN MORE about our plan to fix NCLB and give a great public school to every child at www.nea.org/greatschools.
- SPEAK OUT in the community—at PTA meetings, in letters to the editor, and in conversations at work and in your neighborhood. Tell people how NCLB is hurting schools and students.
- URGE MEMBERS of Congress to cosponsor bills to fix the problems in this law and to provide additional investments in important programs, including Title I, Teacher Quality and after-school. You can e-mail your member of Congress at www.nea.org/greatschools.
- TALK TO your school principal, district superintendent, and school board members. We are working closely with national groups representing administrators and school board members to fix this law.
- DEMAND THAT education be a legislative priority and hold politicians accountable for the votes they cast on public education.

Gamma Alpha Executive Board 2004-2006

Empowerment Through Literacy and Numeracy

Judi Fisher:	President
Lynne Elsesser:	First Vice President
Marie Canzoneri:	Second Vice President
Chris Smith:	Recording Secretary
Jackie Smart:	Corresponding Secretary
Cindy Dietz:	Treasurer
Grace Morgan:	Past President

Gamma Alpha Newsletter, Photos, and Archives at:
www.migammaalpha.org
Contact Jackie with information/corrections/accolades



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