

**Alpha Iota State  
Michigan**



*“CARING Makes  
A Difference”*

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**Reminders**

Check out our yearly calendar, forms and photos on Gamma Alpha's website at:

**www.migammaalpha.org**

This month's meeting:

**February 15**

**Elliott School beginning at 4:30.**

Elliott is located at 30800 Bennington in Westland. Go south on Merriman. Turn left on Parkwood. Proceed to the stop sign. Turn left onto Bennington. (Parkwood is between Cherry Hill and Palmer Roads.)

No March meeting

**Next meeting:**

SERVING WAYNE-WESTLAND, LIVONIA & GARDEN CITY  
MICHIGAN  
MEMBER OF DETROIT METRO COUNCIL

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**GAMMA ALPHA BULLETIN  
“THE G.A.B”**

**Nu Shortcuts in School R 2 Much 4 Teachers**

bits taken from an article by Jennifer Lee

Is the internet becoming the downfall of the English language? Each September Jacqueline Harding prepares a classroom presentation on the common writing mistakes she sees in her students' work. Ms. Harding, an eighth-grade English teacher scribbles the words that have plagued generations of schoolchildren across her whiteboard:

There. Their. They're.  
Your. You're.  
To. Too. Two.  
Its. It's.

This September, she has added a new list: u, r, ur, b4, wuz, cuz, 2.

When she asked her students how many of them used shortcuts like these in their writing, Ms. Harding said, she was not surprised when most of them raised their hands. This, after all, is their online lingua franca: English adapted for the spitfire conversational style of Internet instant messaging.

As more and more teenagers socialize online, middle school and high school teachers like Ms. Harding are seeing a breezy form of Internet English jump from e-mail into schoolwork. To their dismay, teachers say that papers are being written with shortened words, improper capitalization and punctuation, and characters like &, \$ and @.

But teenagers, whose social life can rely as much these days on text communication as the spoken word, say that they use instant-messaging shorthand without thinking about it. They write to one another as much as they write in school, or more.

Almost 60 percent of the online population under age 17 uses instant messaging, according to Nielsen / NetRatings. In addition to cellphone text messaging, Weblogs and e-mail, it has become a popular means of flirting, setting up dates, asking for help with homework and keeping in contact with distant friends. The abbreviations are a natural outgrowth of this rapid-fire style of communication.

Some teachers see the creeping abbreviations as part of a continuing assault of technology on formal written English. Others take it more lightly, saying that it is just part of the larger arc of language evolution. "There is no official English language," said Jesse Sheidlower, the North American editor of the Oxford English Dictionary. "Language is spread not because not anyone dictates any one thing to happen. The decisions are made by the language and the people who use the language."

Others say that the instant-messaging style might simply be a fad, something that students will grow out of. Or they see it as an opportunity to teach students about the evolution of language. Some teachers encourage students to use messaging shorthand to spark their thinking processes. Some teachers feel that when students are writing first drafts, spelling is not a concern, as long as they are writing. If this lingo gets their thoughts and ideas onto paper quicker, the more power to them. But during editing and revising, students should switch to standard English.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Judi's Gems



Dear Gamma Alpha Sisters,

Heart disease is the number one killer of women. Last year we received red dress pins from Amanda Quinn after her presentation concerning women and heart disease. By wearing your pin, you'll help raise awareness about women and cardiovascular disease. You'll also help the important women in your life...your mother, your daughter, your nieces...yourself. You can make everyday choices to live a heart healthier life:

- Get up off the couch. Thirty minutes of exercise a day.
- Quit smoking.
- Drop a pound or two or more!
- Know your numbers— blood pressure, cholesterol count, current weight and height.
- Register for a free dress pin and share the message of the fight against heart disease. Call 1-888-MY-HEART (888-694-3278) to learn more.

TTYL

P.S. Remember to **RSVP** to Lynne 5 days before the February meeting. Let her know if you are bringing a guest.

## Minutes in a Minute

January 25, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 4:30. Fifteen members were present. And one guest.

A correction of the Executive Board minutes was needed. The Grant-in-Aid form is due to Mary Jo by March 21. It needs to be in early because our Birthday Luncheon is April 8 and we need to invite the Grant-in-Aid recipients.

Lynn presented Marianne Reinhard for membership. She is a SAFE teacher from Livonia. Danielle Jopek from Wayne-Westland is still interested in membership. We will initiate both ladies on April 8 at the Metro Council Luncheon.

The February meeting will be held at Elliott at 4:30. Esther and the Service Projects Committee are using the Wilma Adams Grant money Gamma Alpha received to purchase twenty-four canvas bags and toiletry items for the women residents of the Wayne County Family Center. We will decorate the bags and fill them with magazines and needed toiletry items. We want to keep the bags iden-

tical, so if you wish to donate items, make sure you bring 24! Jackie's dentist cousin donated toothbrushes and toothpaste. Light refreshments will be available for \$4.

Jackie passed out invitations to the Metro Council / Gamma Alpha Birthday Luncheon that will be held on April 8, 2006. We will initiate new officers at this time. RSVP to Cindy by March 17. Make checks payable to Gamma Alpha. Cindy will send one check to Metro Council. Grand Celebrations is located between Farmington and Orchard Lake Roads in Farmington at 32305 Grand River Avenue. Please arrive at 11:00. The buffet begins at 11:30. The cost is \$16 per person. Guests are welcome to attend.

The slate of officers presented to the membership was unanimously approved.

Jackie Smart	President
Judi Fisher	First Vice President
Amy Wainwright	Second Vice President
Carol Anderson	Recording Secretary
Jackie Smart	Corresponding Sec./Newsletter

Gamma Gamma, the Plymouth-Canton chapter, invited us to a meeting on March 7, 2006 in which Michael P. Flanagan, State Superintendent of Schools will be speaking. If interested in attending email Gamma Gamma president, Liz VanWestenburg, by February 28, 2006. Her email address is: [vanwesc@pccs.k12.mi.us](mailto:vanwesc@pccs.k12.mi.us)

January's guest speaker was Theresa Roy from Oakwood Hospital/Arbor Hospice & Home Care. Theresa presented a program called "My Voice, My Choice." This program explains the workings of advance directive, which is a method for people to communicate their health care choices **before** a medical emergency occurs. This is not the same as a Living Will. Theresa shared examples about when a loved one is seriously ill, that person's health care choices may not be known among friends and relatives. As a result, family arguments can ensue and the patient's wishes aren't always kept in mind. Some members shared personal experiences about the patient advocate designation. Theresa gave us folders with easy to follow steps to help us complete an advance directive. She also presented information regarding Patient Advocate Designation for healthcare. An attorney is not needed to fill out the forms, there is no cost and it is recognized by courts and hospitals. Theresa explained that people of all ages should sit down and complete an advance directive.

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## State & International Update



[www.deltakappagamma.org](http://www.deltakappagamma.org)

The Winter *Wolverine* has arrived complete with registration forms for the State Convention at Mackinac Island, May 5-7, 2006. Grand Hotel accommodations are also included. If you have not received your *Wolverine* you can get the forms on our website. Go to [www.migammaalpha.org](http://www.migammaalpha.org) Go to Links and click on Alpha Iota State–Michigan Website. Then click on *Forms*. You can print the registration form. Look on page 32 of the *Wolverine* and see Grace leading a craft group at Women in the Arts.

### Advice for the Ladies

*This chuckle was submitted by Judi Fisher*

If you want someone who will bring you the paper without first tearing it apart to remove the sports section, **buy a dog.**

If you want someone willing to make a fool of himself simply over the joy of seeing you, **buy a dog.**

If you want someone who will eat whatever you put in front of him and never says its not quite as good as his mother made it, **buy a dog.**

If you want someone always willing to go out, at any hour, for as long and wherever you want, **buy a dog.**

If you want someone who will never touch the remote, doesn't care about football, and can sit next to you as you watch romantic movies, **buy a dog.**

*(Continued from page 2)*

Life is precarious at best and you never know when you're going to need to make those decisions. If you missed the meeting and would like an Advance Directive Packet or more information, call Theresa for a free packet to be sent to you at (888) 992-2273 extension 603.

Grace and Jackie are working on the *Horses of Hope* Project for the State Convention . Finished product is on the website.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jackie Smart for Chris Smith, Recording Secretary

If you want someone who is content to get up on your bed just to warm your feet and whom you can push off if he snores, **buy a dog.**

If you want someone who never criticizes what you do, doesn't care if you are pretty or ugly, fat or thin, young or old, who acts as if every word you say is especially worthy of listening to, and loves you unconditionally, perpetually, **buy a dog.**

But, on the other hand, If you want someone who will never come when you call, ignores you totally when you come home, leaves hair all over the place, walks all over you, runs around all night and only comes home to eat and sleep, and acts as if your entire existence is solely to ensure his happiness...

Then...

buy a cat!

*(You thought I was talking about a man didn't you?)*

### February Birthdays



**29 Marge Braun**

*If I left you off the birthday list, please let me know. Email me at [jackie@mysmartfamily.com](mailto:jackie@mysmartfamily.com)*

## ?? Mystery Members ??

Initiated in 1979. She was a Charter Member; in Gamma Alpha speak that means she is royalty. She teaches American History in Wayne-Westland at Franklin Middle School. Currently she is chairman of History Committee.

### **Who Am I?**

Initiated in 1997. She teaches second grade in Wayne-Westland. She has three children and six grandchildren. Currently chairman of the Birthday Luncheon. She is a marvelous cook and incredibly artistic.

### **Who am I?**

Initiated in 1995. She is employed as an English teacher in Wayne-Westland. Make sure you keep your receipts or you'll never get reimbursed by this keeper of the checkbook.

### **Who Am I?**

*Use your yearbook to discover who these mystery members are.*

(Continued from page 1)

Here is a reference list of **translations** I got from my girls for common instant-messaging expressions:

AFAIK <i>As Far As I Know</i>	AKA <i>Also Known As</i>
ASAP <i>As Soon As Possible</i>	BAK <i>Back At Keyboard</i>
BBL <i>Be Back Later</i>	BCNU <i>Be Seeing You</i>
B4N <i>Bye For Now</i>	BRB <i>Be Right Back</i>
BTW <i>By The Way</i>	F2F <i>Face To Face</i>
FWIW <i>For What It's Worth</i>	FYA <i>For Your Amusement</i>
FYI <i>For Your Information</i>	GFY <i>Good For You</i>
GGBB <i>Gotta Go Bye Bye</i>	GL <i>Good Luck</i>
GMTA <i>Great Minds Think Alike</i>	G2G <i>Got To Go</i>
GTGB <i>Got To Go Bye</i>	ILU <i>I Love You</i>
IDK <i>I Don't Know</i>	IM <i>Instant Message</i>
IMHO <i>In My Humble Opinion</i>	IMO <i>In My Opinion</i>

INALB <i>I'm Not A Lawyer But</i>	IOH <i>I'm Outta Here</i>
IOW <i>In Other Words</i>	IRL <i>In Real Life</i>
ITS <i>I Told You So</i>	KIT <i>Keep In Touch</i>
LOL <i>Laughing Out Loud</i>	LTL <i>Lets Talk Later</i>
LTNC <i>Long Time No Chat</i>	LU <i>Looking Up</i>
LTNS <i>Long Time No See</i>	MAYB <i>Maybe</i>
NM <i>Nothing Much</i>	NP <i>No Problem</i>
NRN <i>No Reply Necessary</i>	PLS <i>Please</i>
NYO <i>Need Your Opinion</i>	RSN <i>Real Soon Now</i>
PDQ <i>Pretty Darn Quick</i>	POV <i>Point Of View</i>
PMFJI <i>Pardon Me For Jumping In</i>	TU <i>Thank You</i>
POS <i>Parents Over Shoulder Change Subject</i>	TX <i>Thanks</i>
ROTFL <i>Rolling On The Floor Laughing</i>	U <i>You</i>
RTFM <i>Read The "Fascinating" Manual</i>	UW <i>You Wish</i>
TIA <i>Thanks In Advance</i>	TMI <i>Too Much Info</i>
TTFN <i>Ta Ta For Now</i>	TY <i>Thank You</i>
TTYL <i>Talk To You Later</i>	UKW <i>You Know Who</i>
TTYYS <i>Talk To You Soon</i>	U2 <i>You Too</i>
YMMV <i>Your Mileage May Vary (different luck)</i>	
TYVM <i>Thank You Very Much</i>	WB <i>Welcome Back</i>

## Gamma Alpha Executive Board 2004-2006

*Caring Makes a Difference*

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