



GAMMA ALPHA BULLETIN

“LET’S G.A.B”

Caring Makes a Difference

Inside this issue:

Pictures, Pictures	4-11
President’s Message	2
Minutes	2, 3
Good Read	3
State & International News	3

Education a Key to Improving Economy

Gov. Jennifer Granholm received warm greetings when she made a surprise visit to the MEA-Retired annual meeting in Lansing on April 19. She stated that raising high school graduation requirements will help improve Michigan’s economy. “Today’s students no longer compete with just the students sitting in the next desk or students in the next state,” the governor told the gathering of nearly 200 retired teachers and support staff. “In today’s global economy, they compete with students from countries around the world, and need the best education possible.”

Granholm signed the legislation raising graduation requirements and stated education is a key component to raising economic standards in Michigan. “We want to double the number of college graduates in Michigan over the next ten years,” she said. “The states that have the lowest unemployment rates have the best educated workforces.”

Education also is the key to diversifying the Michigan economy, Granholm said. “Our economic table has been balanced largely on one leg—the auto industry. We need to add some legs to diversify our economy for stability.”

Raising graduation requirements and increasing the number of college graduates will help Michigan compete in the global economy and fill the jobs of the 21st century, she said. The Michigan Merit Core of academic courses in the State Board’s plan include:

- *four years of English Language Arts;*
- *one year each of Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and an additional math class in the senior year;*
- *one year each of Biology; Physics or Chemistry; and one additional year of science;*
- *three years of Social Science, which must include a semester of Civics and a semester of Economics;*
- *two years of world languages;*
- *one year of Health/Physical Education and one year of Visual and Performing arts.*
- *Take the Michigan Merit exam, (or the alternate MI-ACCESS assessment for students with severe disabilities);*
- *Complete at least one on-line credit or non-credit course*

www.mea.org MEA: Impacting the Future

Reminders

Check out our yearly calendar, forms and photos on Gamma Alpha’s web-site at:

www.migammaalpha.org

This month’s meeting:

May 31, 2006

Hayes Elementary at 4:30

Hayes is located east of Merriman and south of Ann Arbor Trail. Going north on Merriman, turn right onto Ann Arbor Trail. After a quarter of a mile, turn right onto Hillcrest, then right

Judi's Gems



Dear Gamma Alpha Sisters,

The Metro Council Luncheon was a success and I want to thank Jackie for her efforts in coordinating this event. We had fifteen members attend. Twelve members attended the State Convention on Mackinac Island had a wonderful time. Every visit to the Grand Hotel is special.

Over the last four years you have read my "Gems." This is my last letter as President and I want to say that the last four years have been a wonderful, rewarding experience. You are a great group with which to work and socialize. All of you were a enormous support for me as President I am looking forward to many more years with all of you.

Judi

RSVP to Lynne by May 26 elsessl@yahoo.com

Mary Jo, Grant-in-Aid chairman, announced the two winners of the Grant-in-Aid awards. Kathleen O'Connor and Christina Brinks are juniors at Eastern Michigan University. The grants will help them continue their education.

Lynne Elsesser received the ΔΚΓ etched vase in recognition of her retirement from Wayne Memorial High School. Congratulations, Lynne!

Helen Mate was selected as Gamma Alpha's Chapter Woman of Distinction and will also be honored at the State Convention at the Grand Hotel.

Ten members received pins for being a part of Delta Kappa Gamma for twenty-five years or more. Abby Roche, Suzanne Bacinski, Sherry Green, Joan Lyon, are charter members (27 years). Sandy Becher, Barb Broadley, Esther Loskowske, Grace Morgan and Fran Saenz have been members for 26 years. Carol Holland is a 25 year member. Congratulations ladies!

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Smith, Recording Secretary

Minutes in a Minute

April 8, 2006

Metro Council President, Jackie Smart, welcomed Alpha, Zeta, Lambda, Beta Delta and Gamma Alpha chapters to the Birthday Luncheon. Past State President Judi Foster, State Executive Secretary Sally Garrison, and State Second Vice President Joanne Gardner also attended the luncheon. Pat Terry-Ross, a member of Alpha, accompanied her students on the harp while they beautifully sang a variety of songs for the members. They closed with *Somewhere* from West Side Story. Their harmony and poise were wonderful. Lambda provided five door prizes and held a 50/50 drawing (\$96 for the lucky winner).

Following the luncheon, Gamma Alpha and the fifteen members who were present, installed officers for the 2006-2008 biennium. Jackie will be President and continue to do the newsletter as Corresponding Secretary. Judi Fisher will be First Vice President and chairman of the Program Committee. Amy Wainwright will be Second Vice President and head of the Membership Committee. Carol Anderson will be the new Recording Secretary. Cindy will continue as Treasurer. Barbara Broadley will be the Parliamentarian.

Birthdays

The next newsletter will not be until August. Happy Birthday to the following members:

May 4	Colleen Retherford
May 4	Sandy Becher
May 15	Carol Palk
May 28	Joan Murray
May 29	Bonnie Franka
June 19	Fran Saenz
July 12	Valerie Penn
July 16	Suzanne Bacinski
July 20	Carol Holland
July 21	Judy Handley
August 18	Abby Roach
August 20	Grace Morgan

If I left you off the birthday list, **please** let me know. Email me at jackie@mymartfamily.com

State & International Update

www.deltakappagamma.org

International News

Dr. Helen Popovich, has been nominated for International Member-at-Large and will be serving the Society as a member of the International Administrative Board. Dr. Popovich is extremely well qualified for this position. She is a former State President whose theme for the biennium was "Let's Cultivate Our Roses." She stated that creating a rose garden is a multi-year project. She identified three major challenges that chapters continue to face in creating their rose garden:

- The challenge of maintaining membership and increasing membership.
- The challenge of motivating members to become full participants in chapter activities.
- The challenge of encouraging members to take chapter leadership positions.

Dr. Popovich is chairman of the Delta Kappa Gamma Education Foundation. Upon election at the International Convention in July, she will be serving the Society as a member of the International Administrative Board.

State News

www.deltakappagamma.org/MI



The 2006 Leadership Development Workshop will be held at the Doherty Hotel in Clare, Michigan. The workshop is designed for chapter leaders, officers and interested members. The workshop will be beneficial to chapters in having a successful 2006-2008 biennium. A registration form is included in the Spring *Wolverine*.

Good Read



The Broker

By John Grisham

Most of Grisham's writing involves lawyers and the legal profession, but Grisham occasionally veers away from that theme and readers find themselves experiencing a book far different from what most would identify as the standard Grisham thriller.

The Broker begins with a surprise pardon from a lame duck president. Joel Backman, a Washington power-broker, has served six years of a 20-year sentence for espionage and treason. As part of the pardon agree-

ment, the CIA rush Backman out of the country on a military cargo plane and he is given a new identity in Bologna where he should be enjoying a life of quiet serenity as "Marco Lazzeri." One of the reasons I enjoyed this book is because the main character needed to immerse himself Italian in order to survive. I have been trying to learn Italian and would not make it if I was in his place. But Backman, who was once known as the second most powerful man in Washington, has made serious enemies around the world, and they're all gunning for "the broker." As the CIA watches him closely, the question is not whether he will be killed, but rather *who* will try to kill him first.

For me, reading John Grisham is like eating comfort food. Each year fill my plate with a newly published novel and savor the plot and characters. *The Broker* is a little different. The traditional meatloaf is served Italian style, but the comfort is still there.

?? Mystery Members ??

Initiated in 2000. She teaches in the Resource Room at Garden City High School. Because of her teaching duties we haven't seen much of her this year. We hope that will change. This mystery member is the cousin of our Recording Secretary.

Who Am I?

Initiated in 1980. She has been a member for 26 years! I think she has held every office and been on every committee in Gamma Alpha. She taught in the resource room in Livonia until she retired several years ago. She told me that it was an honor to be invited to join Delta Kappa Gamma.

Who am I?

Initiated in 1998. She is employed in Wayne-Westland as a high school Spanish teacher. She has been our First Vice-President for the last two bienniums. Careful when you email her. All the sss get confusing.

Who Am I?

Initiated in 1994. She is enjoying her second year of retirement from teaching middle school in Wayne-Westland. This member gathers and organizes all the information for the Yearbook. She just finished a course in learning to teach ESL students

Who am I?

Use your yearbook to discover who these mystery members are.

It Is Good to Be a Woman Because...

I can always count on Judi for sending me a giggle for the newsletter.

1. We got off the Titanic first.
2. We can scare male bosses with the mysterious gynecological disorder excuses.
3. Taxis stop for us.
4. We don't look like a frog in a blender when dancing.
5. No fashion faux pas we make could ever rival the Speedo.
6. We don't have to pass gas to amuse ourselves.
7. If we forget to shave, no one has to know.
8. We can congratulate our teammate without ever touching her rear end.
9. We never have to reach down every so often to make sure our privates are still there.
10. We can talk to the opposite sex without having to picture them naked.
11. We will never regret piercing our ears.
12. If we marry someone 20 years younger, we are aware that we will look like an idiot.
13. There are times when chocolate really can solve all your problems.
14. We can make comments about how silly men are in their presence because they aren't listening anyway

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