

Susan Chapman Honored with Omega State Citation of Merit Award

At the Omega State Leadership Conference, Susan Chapman received the Citation of merit in honor of her distinguished service to Omega State. As an excellent musician who plays piano, flute, bells, and sings, Susan has served on the state music team for the past 30 years. She is always well rehearsed, and her work is high quality. She and Gail Fray played a flute duet at the 50 year celebration in 1986. Susan and Gail both joined Alpha Nu chapter in 1978, at the same time.

Susan served at the 2011 Southwest Regional Convention in Denver as an airport greeter, played flute duet at the Past Presidents' Luncheon, sang in the regional choir, sang the blessing before the luncheon, and sang 'Colorado Songs' in an Omega State group at the Colorado Night.

Archivist and Past State President **Kathy Flynn** collected letters from 3 past Omega State presidents and 3 members of the music committee to honor Susan. Kathy honored Susan by saying, "Your upbeat personality is the key to the goodwill you promote, and members pick up on that from the instant they meet you. I am happy to nominate you for this award." Immediate Past State President **Dr. Sue Pettit** said, "I remember being encouraged by your optimism and your desire to have fun. You demonstrate such a strong ability to bring the best out of everyone you work with. I especially love the fact that you have a sincere charisma and optimistic energy that never quits!" Past State President **Beth Barzdukas** wrote, "Susan's leadership ability shone brightly in chairing the 2017 Omega State Convention last year. She communicated with all committee members numerous times. Her sense of

humor made Susan an easy person to follow and complete tasks as asked. She was no stranger to work as she organized many tasks even completing favors."

Many praised Susan's musical talents and her meticulously organized work. Music, Arts, and Humanities Team Leader, **Suzanne Foster** wrote, "Your work at the 2017 Convention was exemplary. Over the last ten years, I have gotten to know you as a talented musician, a thoughtful committee member, an energetic leader and, more recently, a good friend." **Gail Fray** remarked, "She's a dynamite individual who has generously shared her spirit and her superior musical gifts with Delta Kappa Gamma at the chapter (Alpha Nu-Loveland), state and International levels many years! I am proud to recommend Susan for the Citation of Merit Award."

Susan's book of memories also included a copy of the 2018 Omega State Theme song "Promoting Praise and Personality" which she computerized the music for and introduced to Omega State. Omega State President, **Janet McClaskey** said, "Susan is the consummate leader, and I could have chosen no one better to bring my song to life. Omega State is richer because Susan is leading!"



*Submitted by
Kathy Flynn and
Janet McClaskey*



Omega State Celebrates Past President

A Sister Lost

We all strive to live a life that truly matters. That universal desire defined our dear friend and past Omega State president, **Marlene Cohen Shields**, who left us on April 27 after a year of complicated and painful health issues. She was 79 years old. A woman of many remarkable qualities, Marlene's personal resilience was enviable, and her faith in a full recovery never waned. She was a survivor and simply had too much left to do--too many more travel destinations, too many more bridge games, too many more laughs to share, and too many more Delta Kappa Gamma conventions and conferences to attend. Every aspect of her life was conducted with love, passion, and a genuine and inspiring spirit. Marlene truly made others feel important--family, friends, and students. She made them feel they mattered. The American writer, Ralph Waldo Emerson, instructed us that "to know that even one life has breathed easier because you have lived, this is to have succeeded." Our fellow sister succeeded immensely.



As Alpha Chapter president, Marlene in her 1998 annual letter to the chapter implored members "to begin this new year thankful for what we have and live each day to the fullest." And so she did. Born in Denver in 1939, Marlene

soon moved to

Cheyenne, Wyoming, then back to Denver, where she grew up an only child, doted on by her parents. She graduated from East High School in 1957 and soon met a dashing young man, Charles Cohen, an architecture student. They married in the same year.

A beautiful family began with Lee in 1962, Richard in 1967, and Monica in 1970. Life with her brood was joyous, filled with laughter, love, and adventure. The parents loved dancing at Elitch's on weekends, and everyone enjoyed time together at their cabin in Frisco, where the rule was no television--just games, skiing, hiking, boating and more. In 1983 the family's happiness came to a screeching halt when Charles was diagnosed with leukemia and given only a few months to live. Fortunately, he survived ten more years under his wife's care. During these years Marlene earned a degree in education from Metropolitan State College in 1985 and began teaching, first at St. Mary's Academy and later at Sabin Elementary in Denver, where she remained until retirement in 2007. Taking night courses at the Denver annex of the University of Northern Colorado, she earned her Master's in Education and later additional credits that brought her close to a PhD. Our friend gained a new lease on life and love when she met Harlan Shields. The couple traveled extensively around the world until Harlan too succumbed to cancer. Again Marlene's strength and resolve were challenged, but she proved a true warrior. She found love for a third time with Bill White, but the relationship was short-lived as Bill died at 92, only two years after they met. Traveling remained a passion with our dynamo--Tokyo, Malaysia, Beijing, and so much more. Bangkok was a frequent destination since son Richard lived there for several years. She especially loved Hawaii and, according to Lee, looked forward to a vacation there with the entire family next year when she turned 80.

Our past Omega State president treasured her friends dearly. Daughter Monica relates that friendships mattered so much to her mom that "while most people can count their true friends on only one hand, she could count such friends on every finger and toe." Marlene's greatest joy was her family, especially her ten-year-old granddaughter Victoria, who loved calling her on the first of each month with "Grandma, the month of March (or other months) is in the trash." Victoria will surely miss talking to this wonderful lady, telling her jokes and stories, reading to her, and expressing her excitement about tennis and karate. The child was



truly her joy and the recipient of her love of life and laughter.

None of us will ever forget Marlene's signature laugh, totally infectious as demonstrated on a plane trip to the 1998 DKG International Convention with a few friends – **Annetta Ornelas**, **Ruth Klein**, and **Florence Arellano**. Marlene began laughing, and her friends soon chimed in. Ultimately every nearby passenger couldn't help but join the fun. At the end of the trip, the flight attendant told Marlene that she had earned her wings by creating a joyous atmosphere throughout the flight. Marlene's musical taste was rather eclectic, ranging from the Colorado Symphony Orchestra to jazz to OBG's, oldies but goodies. Our friend lived and breathed her teaching, and her students always remembered her when she ran into them as adults. Her DKG sister and great friend, Annetta Ornelas, recalls that "she always managed to bring out the best in all of her many students. She was loved by all of her students as well as their parents." She was the consummate educator. She brought her dedication to DKG beginning with her initiation in 1989. She served on the state level as second vice-president from 2001 to 2003, first vice-president from 2003 to 2005 as well as president of Omega State from 2005 to 2007. State committees she worked on included Community and World Connections, Leadership Committee, and the Program of Work Committee. In addition to serving as Alpha Chapter president from 1998 to 2000, Marlene worked as first and second vice-president. She was always ready to volunteer and take on new challenges.

At the chapter holiday meeting in 1999, Marlene quoted Eleanor Roosevelt's wise and poignant words: "Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift." Our friend's history was one of both joy and pain. She faced the mystery of tomorrow with strength and hope and treasured every day as a precious gift.

We love you and miss you, our friend.

Submitted by Ruth Ann Bearden, Alpha Chapter

White Roses of Remembrance

Lorene Anderson, Alpha Beta, Died 3-22-18

Jacqueline Bell, Zeta, Died 10-7-17

Bess Brown, Alpha Beta, Died 9-21-17

Frances Burbank, Alpha, Died 4-23-18

Miriam Hartig, Chi, Died 2-23-18

Lauretta Jacoba, Rho, Died 3-21-18

Dorothy Roberts, Alpha Rho, Died 4-16-18

Marlene Shields, Alpha, Died 4-27-18

"She has left a part of herself with those she loved, with her colleagues, and with all of us."

Delta Kappa Gamma Ceremonies Book

REMINDER FOR CHAPTER PRESIDENTS – FORM 6

It is very important that each death of a member be reported as soon as possible on Form 6 for Death of a Member. Please work with your membership chairs to **promptly report to all three of the following:**

International: **International Membership Services:**
mem@dkg.org

Omega State Membership Chair: **Beth Barzdukas:**
Barzdukas@live.com

Omega State Treasurer: **Lilly Vigil:**
cmcr1@msn.com

The form is interactive on-line and is available on both the state website and the international website. Names will not be listed in the White Roses unless the Form 6 is submitted.





President's Corner



Dear Omega State,
The 2018 Leadership Conference centered on the theme of *Leading with Praise and Possibility*, and members returned home brimming with so many ideas that some new Chapter Presidents even held their planning meetings the very next week! From the perfectly organized check-in to the creative table favors you'll see in photos throughout this issue,

host Chapters Beta and Alpha Omicron outdid themselves in making the conference a pleasure at every turn. Each attendee gathered new ideas to share with her Chapter, and I'd like to offer a couple that made a big impact on me.

In her breakout session, Alpha Delta member **Kathryn Eyolfson** showed us how she teaches STEM students. Students actually learn velocity, impact of blade shapes, and other scientific concepts *while they engage in creating* their own wind turbines. The learning takes place during the action. Kathryn's program has the power to change STEM education across Colorado, and I do hope she'll present again to help us grow.

This method of *learning while doing* was repeated by new educator **Julia Campfield** in her presentation about math in Hungary. To teach a math concept, she designs a series of word problems, allows teams of students to engage in solving them, and then follows the experience with some direct teaching of the concepts. Julia understands that this method of teaching math has the power to impact learning, and I look forward to hearing her successes in her first year teaching in St. Louis.

For those of us who were taught to put the objective on the board, this kind of learning is new--and exciting-- and *doing first and learning as you go*

also has big relevance for our chapters. Leaders don't have to know everything or be perfect. We can learn as we lead. When we gather new members, we don't need to explain everything about DKG before they join; they can learn about our chapters as they present programs to us.

Admittedly *doing first and learning as you go* is a paradigm shift for me. I'm used to teaching the concepts first and then doing the problems, and my mind struggles to return to that old process. Paradigm shifts always take time and effort--but they're worth it! This method of growing has huge impact for our chapters, too. You may find more leaders leading and more members joining if you embrace this new way of thinking with me. Let members lead; let members join; then, grow together in promoting personal growth of women educators and excellence in education!

We offered a second paradigm shift in our session on *Partnerships and Assets Mapping*. The basic idea is a win/win. Instead of just providing service to communities and non-member educators, map out the assets of your chapter, map out the assets of your partners, and see what you can do for each other. This partnership model prevents service fatigue in the giver and entitlement in the receiver by honoring the talents and skills of the receiver. Simply put, it's: *Here's what I can do for you; what can you do for me?* Resources are offered on our website at dkgcolorado.weebly.com and you might even consider asking a school to provide a program or two, meet in a non-member's room after school, let her teach you, and then offer her information about International Scholarships for non-members that can be found at <http://www.dkgef.org>. You get a great program; she gets a scholarship--and learns about DKG, and just may join!

Throughout this *Omega Peaks* issue you'll hear about more of our fabulous speakers and sessions. If you discover one of particular interest to you, please let me know, and I'll see if we can repeat it at the **2019 State Convention on June 28, 29, 30**. You'll hear more about the Convention at our **Fall Board Meeting on October 20, 2018** at Lone Tree Marriott. Hope to see you there!



Fall Board Meeting

October 20, 2018

Lone Tree Marriott South

10345 Park Meadows Drive, Lone Tree, CO 80124

The Next Step Forward

Delta Kappa Gamma sisters, most of us are approaching retirement in our futures or we're already there, and we're anxious about what the next stage holds for us. Sure, we made a difference for multitudes of young people and we can proudly boast of the wisdom and knowledge gained from years of dedication to others. Now, however, is the time to embrace the second half of our lives with optimism, passion, and energy. Too often our culture stereotypes aging as based on fear, isolation, and personal diminishment. We may fall victim to societal myths, such as "to be old is to be sick" and "mental decline is inevitable." We are left fearfully assuming that old age holds nothing new and exciting for us, that the best of life has come and gone. Yes, we've all had our joys and pains, and we're not the same as twenty years ago in some respects, but life in retirement can be exhilarating and even magical if we approach this time with the courage to keep learning and doing and allowing our life experiences to guide us.

Where is all this enthusiasm coming from? From award-winning author and speaker **Barb Warner**, who delighted Alpha Chapter members at a recent meeting and inspired us to be our best possible selves. The basis of Barb's discussion was her book, *Save Your Fork--Dessert is on the Way*.

Barb began with an overview of some of her own life experiences, including three years in the Peace Corps in Turkey, and supporting civil rights and anti-war sentiment in the 1960's and 1970's. She later fell in step with the women's movement. Barb earned a master's degree in Guidance and Counseling, as well as certification in Gerontology. After great personal and professional success, Barb, now in her seventies, has moved forward to find "what makes her heart sing"—her writing of books and blogs and the opportunity to speak to groups

who want to hear how they too can maximize their potential after retirement.

This vibrant speaker led an interactive session as we brainstormed ways to boost our quality of life while aging. The true scientific answer, according to Barb, is increased creativity, a quality we all possess. We simply have to explore this quality within ourselves, bringing it to the foreground of our lives. Other aspects that enhance creativity and encourage longevity include resiliency, gratitude, forgiveness, laughter and so much more. All of these valuable traits empower us to age well and joyously.

One of Barb's favorite quotations comes from the wisdom of Oliver Wendell Holmes, who believed that "many people die with their music still in them. Why is this so? Too often it is because they are always getting ready to live. Before they know it, time has run out." We can all encourage each other to release the music of our souls and enjoy the dessert of later life.

Barb Warner can be reached at www.barbwarner.com or powertools.barb@gmail.com. She would love to perk up your chapter as well.

Submitted by Ruth Ann Bearden, Alpha Chapter

2018 Leadership Conference

SW Regional Director, Pat Park, is International Society Representative to the Omega State Colorado 2018 Leadership Conference

Colorado was happy to welcome **Pat Park** as Society representative to our 2018 Leadership Conference held at the Franciscan Retreat Center in Colorado Springs. Pat presented in two general sessions and in breakout sessions. Pat's first general session message to us was on "How to Influence Global Learning for ALL Children" which also included 'Schools for Africa. Jessie Shackelford followed Pat's presentation with a most entertaining, inter-active approach entitled, 'The Geography of Africa.'



With ‘Leadership’ as our focus, Pat presented ‘A Leader in Every Chair,’ emphasizing how each of us are truly leaders. Members actively participated in collaborative strategies to delve deeper at a conscious level into the Five Levels of Leadership. “This is a true commitment to yourself, to your chosen professional career, to your contribution to



mankind, and to your dedication to DKG.” Pat’s presentation of “We are Leaders of Leaders, Not Leaders of Followers,” challenged members to take the first steps to cultivate a Leader-Leader Culture whereby all are engaged and empowered to be active members. Each

member is valued and involved by being part of the decision-making process. As Society Representative, Pat presented a session focusing on the proposed changes to the Constitution which will be discussed and voted upon at the 2018 International Convention in Austin, Texas, July 16-20. Pat has had a long and successful career in education. She has won numerous accolades and awards such as:

- *2003 Hawaii Middle School Principal of the year
- *Blue Ribbon Award for Outstanding Secondary Schools, State and Central District serving at the Aliamanu Middle School in 2001.
- *Complex Superintendent for 21 schools

Pat retired in 2014 as Hawaii State Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction and Student Support.

After the conference with tour guide, **Kathy Flynn**, Pat toured Garden of the Gods Park, Rocky Mountain National Park, and Estes Park. She delighted in seeing all the wildlife. Deer were within touching distance at the Franciscan Center, a herd of big horn sheep and their babies crossed the road a few feet from our car in Rocky Mountain National Park and grazed in the meadow, plus we saw two

elk in the distance. Being from Hawaii, Pat was amazed that there was still snow up high on the mountains. Pat is delighted to be actively involved in DKG at the three levels: International, State and Chapter. Without a doubt, she loves being with her 7-year-old granddaughter, family times with her husband, son and daughter and their families who all live in Hawaii on the island of Oahu.

THANK YOU to SW Regional Director, Pat Park for her presentations and her vibrant presence at our 2018 Leadership Conference.



You were a delight, Pat!

Submitted by Kathy Flynn

Omega State was honored to have Society Representative **Patricia Park** share her wisdom at our conference. In our opening session, Pat invited us to think of ourselves as citizens of the world. Her presentation *How To Influence Global Learning For ALL Children* gave us tools to become world-minded through food, culture, crafts, and music and offered strategies for engaging our chapters and children using globes, maps, and pictures of clothes, shoes, and crafts. We followed Pat's presentation with details about the DKG International Project Schools for Africa and Communications and Publicity Team Leader **Jessie Shackelford's** African map activity.

Pat wowed us again when she followed Omega State President **Janet McClaskey's** theme song



"Promoting Praise and Possibility" with the International Administrative Board presentation *The Story of Possibilities* which helped members understand new structures and strategies offered in the International Constitution amendments that will be voted on at the Convention in Austin. Pat 's presentation paved the way for Past State President True Morgan to lead members in a conversation about the amendments in her afternoon breakout session.

Pat's breakout session, *Yes, We are Leaders of Leaders, Not Leaders of Followers*, her teaching us about leadership, and her final general session, *A Leader in Every Chair*, inspired us to consider ourselves leaders and see leadership qualities in each of our chapter members. Omega State Corresponding Secretary **Kerry Tripp** encapsulated the meaning of our conference and Pat's leadership training when she said, "Leadership comes in all sizes and shapes and ways, and Omega State honors all leaders' styles. Every chapter member is a leader. Honor that. Make sure they get involved."

Submitted by Janet McClaskey

Presidents' Walk 2018

On June 13, 2018 members attending the DKG State Leadership Conference gathered in the shade near the labyrinth at the Franciscan Center to listen to a beautiful flute prelude played by Citation of Merit Award winner **Susan Chapman**.

First Vice President, **Leila Koenig** arranged outgoing and incoming presidents by chapter. Chi chapter hosted by **Kristal Benson** reading the names of the presidents as they entered the circle. Outgoing presidents received a rose and key from **Pat Mrozcek-Van Allen** in honor of the Key contributions they made during their bienniums. Incoming presidents received a long-stemmed rose representing their chapter leadership to come.



State President **Janet McClaskey** welcomed the chapter leaders as members encircled the labyrinth. Music, Arts, and Humanities Team Leader, **Suzanne Foster**, closed the beautiful ceremony and conference by leading all in holding hands and singing the Delta Kappa Gamma song.

Submitted by Leila Koenig



Takeaways from the "Praise and Possibilities" Leadership Conference at the Franciscan Center

It looked like a doily at first glance, a circular piece of calico cloth. But on closer inspection, it had four compartments and a center section, all brought together by a colorful purple drawstring. It was really a bag for holding jewelry, perfect for travel. The clever ladies of Chi Chapter in Montrose had these for sale out of the back of **Leila Koenig's** trunk. Not only were there the cloth jewelry bags and kitchen finery, but jars of jalapeno mustard and peach jam. These ladies were clever and industrious at the same time, using the money from sales for scholarships. Doesn't everyone need a little something clever and industrious now and then?

Colonel Jennifer Alexander from the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs had us in stitches. One could substitute the word "teacher" for "meteorologist" in her "Leadership Top 10" and come up with the same list! Like # 2: "meteorology (teaching) is a science but it is also an art", or, #3: "Can't this job be done by a machine?", or, #4: "you



are never right, even when you are". Jennifer's message was to never give up, bounce back from failure, keep positive and look for the signal through the noise. She was endearing and inspiring. Doesn't everyone need a little something endearing and inspiring now and then?

Quiet and peaceful were the grounds of the Franciscan Center, with its stone walls and cottages, meandering deer and birds, no frills rooms, cafeteria meals with a competent staff, and a labyrinth to stroll. Plenty of steps were added to the Fitbit going back and forth between buildings over the paths and steps. An out of the way place provided space for reflection. Doesn't everyone need a space for reflection now and then?

Jessie Shakelford had us folding paper into 12 compartments and drawing a map of Africa, following her directions. A lesson plan from her 10th grade all-inclusive World History Class was provided for us at the end of the conference. Fun learning about another place in the world had us ready for more. And Delta Kappa Gamma has an outreach for Students in Africa! Doesn't everyone need a little fun learning now and then?

Emily Alire and **Erica Switzer** were two new teachers on a mission : "Preventing Suicide: Project Open When". Letters are written and saved to be read when needed by someone who is reaching for a lifeline. Examples and stationery were supplied. Those who couldn't compose on the spot were invited to go to the website or send the letters on to **Dr. Sue Pettit**. Taking action about a cause that matters. Doesn't everyone need to take action now and then?

There was so much more: International Guest **Pat Park** from Hawaii talking about "A Leader In Every Chair"; music, a talent show; **Julia Campfield** talking about "Math Education in Hungary"; a silent auction (purchased tickets from the Beta Babes); **Memory Lamfers** talking about "Making Choices", working with women in prison and also reading her children's book, "Yogi"; and the anniversary books printed and distributed to those who had ordered them. There was so much to praise (thank you Leadership Team and hostess chapters) and so much

to carry back to our chapters. Doesn't everyone need a little "praise and possibilities" now and then?

Submitted by Susan Denney

At the leadership conference held recently at the Franciscan Center in Colorado Springs, I learned how to make leis using eyelash yarn. **Ronda Collette** taught us how to make these leis which she learned in Hawaii at Southwest Regional. I will use what I learned to teach my granddaughters something new when have them at my house with little to do. *Submitted by Beth Barzdukas*

How do you handle adversity? How do you bounce back?

You probably depend on one or more protective factors that were identified from a study of children in Hawaii.

The first factor comes from within the individual. Some people are just naturally more resilient.

The second factor comes from the family. Being able to establish a bond early in life with at least one emotionally stable adult relative.

The third factor comes from the community. Having a positive adult role model, teacher, or mentor to turn to.

Omega State 1st Vice President, **Leila Koenig**, presented this information plus a resiliency quiz and a list of other resources at our recent state Leadership Conference.

Omega State Officers 2017-2019

President - Janet McClaskey
1st Vice President - Leila Koenig
2nd Vice President - Dr. Maxine Fawcett-Yeske
Recording Secretary - Memory Lamfers
Corresponding Secretary - Kerry Tripp
Executive Secretary - Cynthia Mousel
Treasurer - Lilly Vigil
Parliamentarian - Susan Denny
Editor & Webmaster - Nancy Scofield
Archivist - Kathy Flynn
Immediate Past President - Dr. Sue Pettit



Project Open When

New educators **Emily Alire** and **Erica Switzer** shared their non-profit organization called Project Open When which seeks to support the mental health of students through the use of community and positive behaviors. Educators are invited to write

letters of hope and affirmation which will be reviewed by Emily and Erica and placed in ProjectOpenWhen boxes in public places like restrooms and school guidance counselor offices. Any



time a student is in need of support, she may choose a letter of hope from a real person. Learn how you can be a part of this exciting effort in suicide prevention at [acebook.com/projectopenwhen](https://facebook.com/projectopenwhen).

Chapter Happenings

Zeta Chapter is 80 years old! Chartered April 9, 1938

Due to stormy weather on Feb. 10th, 2018, our Tri-Chapter Meeting at the Islamic Center was cancelled—a big disappointment for members of all three chapters. However, by popular demand, our organizer, **Vivian Harvey** made arrangements to reschedule for Feb. 2019!

The March meeting was another treasure with **Millie Jurnke's** piano students performing their competition selections for us. These young teenagers have amazing talent and share it with us!



Verda McConnell, our most senior member, celebrated her **102nd** birthday on April 24, 2018.

She continues to astonish us with her sharp wit and delightful personality! “Good for you, Verda”!

The Denver Metro Area of AARP presented a timely program in April on Elder Watch/Internet, Cyber Fraud with valuable information regarding unwanted phone and internet solicitations.

Congratulations to Zeta member and past President **Ethel Clow**, who was selected “*Volunteer of the year at Highline Community Elementary School.*” Ethel and her therapy dog, Waldo were honored at the Cherry Creek School District’s “Exceptional Volunteer Event” on April 12 at the Denver Marriott Southeast. We are very proud of Ethel’s dedicated and enthusiastic work with children!

Appropriately, our dedicated Historian, **Elizabeth Price**, presented the chapter with printed copies of the “*(Auto) Biographies of Past and Present Zeta Women*” at our May Founders’ Day program. This has been a labor of love and Elizabeth has worked for years on this project. Thank you!

The new Zeta Chapter Officers for 2018-2019 were installed at the May meeting:

- President.....**Mary Boughton**
 - Vice-President.....**Carol Tebo**
 - Recording Secretary..... **Aarona Fugita**
 - Corresponding Secretary.....**Nancy McFaddin**
 - Treasurer.....**Mary Archuleta**
- Our June “planning meeting” for next year was held at the home of our out-going President, **Cynthia Ziegler**. We enjoyed her culinary skills with a delicious brunch.

Submitted by Nancy McFaddin



Chi Chapter



Chi Chapter's **Sandy Balerio** poses with her certificate of appreciation for her many hours of volunteer work at Olathe Elementary School presented to her at the end of the year assembly.

Sandy's volunteerism mirrors others in Chi Chapter who give of their time freely to many entities in our area. Besides time spent in schools, members donate hours to their churches and a myriad of other nonprofits. Montrose alone has over 200 registered nonprofits, so there are plenty of causes to choose from. As a group, Chi Chapter donates to Bags of Love, a charity that provides for children who have been removed from their homes by law enforcement.

Submitted by Wendy Burrell

ALPHA RHO CHAPTER, Greeley

Alpha Rho held their February meeting and had a "Purse Swap" to raise money for our scholarship fund. The chapter gives a scholarship to a University of Northern Colorado student, who is pursuing her studies in an education related field. We also decided to sponsor a luncheon for the staff of Meeker Elementary School. The entire school had to move out of their building because a water main break had done extensive damage.

In March, we hosted a lite lunch for Delta Chapter and Omega State President **Janet McClaskey**. We enjoyed the program HIPPY, Home Instruction for Parents of Pre-School Youngsters. It was very educational to find out about this community project.

At the April meeting, members elected by acclamation new officers. They are **Ginny Helwick-Jackson**, President; **Patricia Gibbs**, First Vice

President; **Dee Kratochvil**, Second Vice President; and **Lorna VanMeter**, Recording Secretary. After the meeting, members were educated by a Master Gardener about growing flowers in containers.



Submitted by Nancy Heinz

Alpha Mu Chapter, Grand Junction, CO

We've had a great 2017/18 year in Alpha Mu this past school year! Along with our members' adventures of travel, grandparenthood, and surviving the school year, we've been super busy this year! Our membership has grown with the induction of 3 amazing Grand Junction educators! We gladly welcome: **Elizabeth Henrikson** - a 6th grade science teacher and MESA Advisor (Math, Engineering, Science Achievement) from Fruita Middle School; **Roni Hathaway** - a Tech Ed and Career & Technical Education (CTE) educator from Grand Junction High School; and **Cheyenne Gentry**, a Grand Junction High School ESL teacher. Each of these new Alpha Mu members embodies the spirit of Delta Kappa Gamma and is consistently trying to enact positive energy and change within our local Mesa County Schools.

Members **Mary Graham** and **Joyce Hansen** helped to actively support the work of our school district's bond and mill election efforts, and we all celebrated last fall when our community voted for and passed the bond and mill for Mesa County Schools, in collaboration with the District 51 Foundation, our



local foundation which supports teacher training and technology for classrooms.

Through Alpha Mu President **Heidi Ragsdale**'s work with National Geographic and STEM advocacy for nationwide STEM education enhancement, we brought mapping and GIS technology to our chapter, Omega state, and classrooms across Colorado. Our local chapter learned about the power of the Giant Map of Colorado, and our chapter purchased and donated supplies to support the local schools' giant map of Colorado. Heidi introduced DKG to the world of mapping at the Fall meeting and we were able to map our sister Chapters around the state. We hope to bring the giant map to more local classrooms as well as train more teachers using the National Geographic Giant Map program. If you have not yet had a chance to put your Chapter on the Omega State Online Map, please visit:

<https://bit.ly/2I7Nd8W> and click "Participate Here"



Omega State Members on the Giant Map of Colorado in October 2017

Three of our members are now part of the Space Foundation Teacher Liaison program, a group of 200 teachers around the world, whose focus it is to bring quality STEM Aerospace Education to local classrooms. Member **Heidi Ragsdale**, **Therese Moran** and **Elizabeth Henrikson** each spent a week in April at the Space Foundation's Space Symposium at The Broadmoor in Colorado Springs, learning from the Aerospace industry's most recent work. Check out their adventures on Twitter at: **#WMSSTEMGJ** or **#GJSpaceLadies**



Alpha Mu Chapter members Heidi Ragsdale, Therese Moran, and Elizabeth Henrikson with astronaut Kathryn Thornton at the 34th annual Space Symposium at The Broadmoor, in 4/18 to advocate for STEM Education.

Our community outreach this past year has included: raising funds through our annual Holiday auction for our Colorado Mesa University Scholarship, supporting classrooms through time and talent, donating materials for the Giant Map of Colorado, collecting and donating Books for Babies in our school district's teen parent program, collecting and distributing travel toiletries for local non-profits, surprising teachers with Teacher Appreciation Week goodie bags in May, and donating gift baskets with our sister Grand Junction Xi Chapter for the District 51 Foundation's White Ice Gala in February.

We are in the beginning stages of helping to plan for next year's projects and hope to continue to maintain and build membership! We also plan to support our early-career educators, a Little Free Library Migrant Literacy project and any STEM efforts for underrepresented populations in our local district. You can follow along with our adventures on **Facebook** at **"Delta Kappa Gamma - Alpha Mu Grand Junction"** or on **Twitter** at **#GJDKG**

Submitted by Heidi Ragsdale



Don't Tell Me Poem

Driving home from school one day – many years ago, I heard the song, “Flowers on the Wall” sung by the Statler Brothers. That prompted (“inspired” is too strong a word) me to write the following:

Chasing hamsters in a ball,
Hanging artwork in the hall,
Zipping zippers that won't zip
Collecting money for the next field trip,
Teaching how to tie a shoe,
Now don't tell me I've nothing to do!

Putting band-aids on skinned knees,
Catching cold each time they sneeze,
Taking time to dry some tears
Resulting from a small one's fears,
Stopping some from eating paste,
Now don't tell me my day's a waste!

Hearing about a recess fuss
Letting them settle it (what a plus!),
Planning a lesson to shed some “light”,
Planning again when it isn't “right”,
Grading papers with Jay Leno,
Now don't tell me my day is slow!

Buying school “stuff” with my pay,
Helping the kids makes it OK,
Coming early and staying late,
Explaining to a patient mate,
Summer classes to “make the grade”,
Now don't tell me I've got it made!

Going home tired with feet that ache,
Counting the days till the next school break,
Calling a parent with news that's bad,
Wishing so much it was something glad,
Knowing the hurt won't soon be eased.
Now don't tell me this job's a breeze!

Getting a note from a parent who
Is “very grateful for all you do”,
Deciding its good to go the second mile,
Knowing I was right when I see a kid smile,
Savoring a brief moment on the “mount”,
Now don't tell me my job doesn't count!

Sharing ideas with the teacher down the hall,

Teaching – “all for one and one for all”,
Humming a tune when the day's gone well,
Looking around for someone to tell,
Receiving kids' hugs when the day is over,
Don't tell me I'm not walking in clover!

Ending each day with heartfelt prayer
To treat each child with love and care,
Hoping I've helped more than I've hurt,
Asking forgiveness for the times I was curt,
Anxious for morning when they run through the door,
Now don't tell me any job offers more!

Linda Pitts, Beta Chapter, Pueblo, Colorado

Star Chapter Awards

Congratulations to our Star Chapters!

This June, these Chapters earned **four-star** certificates. ★★★★★

Alpha	President Deborah Francis
Chi	President Debbie Matteson
Rho	President Debbie Womack
Mu	President Susan Burnett
Alpha Chi	Presidents Phyllis Finlay & Kathleen Hall
Alpha Iota	President Veronica Shamberger
Alpha Rho	President Nancy Heinz

These Chapters earned **three-star** certificates. ★★★

Delta	President Nancy Robinson
Zeta	President Cynthia Ziegler
Omega	Presidents Sharon Gordon & Patti Oda

I know that all Chapters do interesting projects and programs. I have had members tell me, "I didn't know we did so much". Please participate in Star Chapter next year and give your Chapter (and yourselves) a "pat on the back".

Submitted by Carol Drollinger



Lifelong Learning

A huge thanks for the Lifelong Learning Award! From the support of Omega State Lifelong Learning Award, I was able to attend the Digital Harbor Foundation's 3D Printing training in Baltimore, MD in June 2017. After being selected as the Colorado Digital Harbor 3D Printer training, I scrambled to figure out how to finance such a trip to the East Coast. Because of the support of Omega State, I was able to attend the weeklong training in downtown Baltimore. Digital Harbor Foundation is the leading research facility in Maker Education and 3D printing. I was able to train with some of the country's best supporters of STEM education.



After returning from my trip to Baltimore, MD, I was able to meet with and advocate for STEM education funding within my own community. West Middle School STEM received funding from our Western Colorado Community Foundation to bring multiple 3D printers to our school. From there, I advocated for our after-school alliance STEM program MESA (Math, Engineering, Science Achievement), to be able to receive 3D printers for each of our MESA program sites. I thank you, Omega State, for recognizing the importance of lifelong learning, especially as STEM education advocacy increases across our country!

*Submitted by Heidi Ragsdale, Alpha Mu President
Lifelong Learning Scholarship Recipient*

Mission Statement

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

Vision

Leading Women Educators
Impacting Education Worldwide

Society Purposes

1. To unite women educators of the world in a genuine spiritual fellowship
2. To honor women who have given or who evidence a potential for distinctive service in any field of education
3. To advance the professional interest and position of women in education
4. To initiate, endorse, and support desirable legislation or other suitable endeavors in the interests of education and of women educators
5. To endow scholarships to aid outstanding women educators in pursuing graduate study and to grant fellowships to women educators from other countries
6. To stimulate the personal and professional growth of members and to encourage their participation in appropriate programs of action
7. To inform the members of current economic, social, political, and educational issues so that they may participate effectively in a world society.

Omega Peaks

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Deadline for the Fall issue is **August 31, 2018**.

Contributors to the newsletter are asked to send news as soon as it is available to ensure its placement in the next issue to:

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