



*Caring Makes a Difference*

# GAMMA ALPHA BULLETIN

## “LET’S G.A.B”

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**November 29  
Meeting Reminder**

*Grant-in-Aid Holiday Auction*

We will meet for Initiation of New Members at G. Subu’s Leather Bottle at 5:00. Amy and her committee will handle the ceremony. The buffet dinner begins at 5:30. The cost of the dinner will be \$20 per person. This includes tax and gratuity. Cash bar is available. Pay Cindy upon arrival at the restaurant. **Please RSVP by Sunday November 26 to [jackie@mymartfamily.com](mailto:jackie@mymartfamily.com)** because Judi’s email is on the fritz! The auction will begin promptly at 6:30. Bring auction items and guests. The Leather Bottle is located at 20300 Farmington Road just south of 8 Mile in Livonia on the east side of Farmington. See you there!

### *Getting Farther Ahead by Staying Behind*

Social promotion has long been the normal practice in American schools. Critics of this practice, whereby students are promoted to the next grade regardless of academic preparation, have suggested that students would benefit academically if they were made to repeat a grade. Supporters of social promotion claim that retaining students disrupts them socially, producing greater academic harm than promotion would. A number of states and school districts, including Florida, Texas, Chicago, and New York City, have attempted to curtail social promotion, by requiring students to demonstrate academic preparation on a standardized test before they can be promoted to the next grade.

This study analyzes the effects of Florida’s test-based promotion policy on student achievement two years after initial retention. The analysis showed that, after two years of the policy, retained Florida students made significant reading gains relative to the control group of socially promoted students. These academic benefits grew substantially from the first to the second year after retention. That is, students lacking in basic skills who are socially promoted appear to fall farther behind over time, whereas retained students appear to be able to catch up on the skills they are lacking. *(excerpted from the report by Jay Greene & Marcus Winters - Manhattan Institute for Policy Research, )*

This report sounds good, so Derek Briggs of University of Colorado reviewed the report for *Think Twice*. *Think Twice* provides the public and policymakers with timely, academically sound reviews of selected think tank publications. Briggs reported that the Manhattan Institute report **overstates** the effect of retention on student achievement. The report, “*Getting Farther Ahead by Staying Behind: A Second-Year Evaluation of Florida’s Policy to End Social Promotion,*” by Greene and Winters reaches findings that “are best described

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### **Mission Statement**

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



## *Minutes in a Minute*

October 18, 2006

Delta Kappa Gamma, Gamma Alpha chapter, met on October 18, 2006 at G Subu's Leather Bottle in Livonia. Fourteen members attended. Call to order came at 5:45.

The scheduled program, a presentation on the Tanzania Education Project by Rosalie Zuber was canceled. Ms. Zuber called that morning with her apologies. She has been ill.

Jackie, Judy and Amy reported on their attendance at the Fall Workshop at Soaring Eagle Resort. Sounds like they had a good weekend with informative sessions and networking time. Only a few quarters, nickels, and dollars were left behind.

A brief discussion about plans for the initiation of new members led to further discussion about attracting and keeping members. It appears that membership in a society of teachers may not be as attractive to many women in the profession as it once was. We are all asked to think of ways to keep our society of key women educators alive and vital. Gamma Alpha's membership is currently at 33 members. Colleen Fisher, Laura Barrett, Pat Curd, Joan Lyon (health reasons), Bonnie Schweitzer (health reasons), and Linda Fullerton have resigned their membership from the Society.

The popular Holiday Auction was discussed. It is scheduled for November 29 at G Subu's Leather Bottle. Initiation of new members will take place at 5:00. A buffet dinner will follow at 5:30. The auction will begin at 6:30. All members are urged to donate a couple items for the auction. Holiday craft items are always popular. Unique jewelry or collectibles are welcome. Homemade goodies usually go over well. A certificate for a massage or other pampering service is a wonderful auction item. Be creative with your donations and plan to come and bid on all the other items. Bring a guest or two. The success of the auction depends on many bidders. Money raised at the auction is used for our Grant-in-Aid. Hope to see you there with your guests and your checkbook. May you leave with some wonderful purchases.

For those who are interested, the Northeast Regional Convention will be held on July 25 – 28, 2007 at Grand Traverse Resort.

Gamma Alpha will co-chair the state convention at the Pontiac Marriott on the weekend of May 4, 2007. Plan to attend and to lend a helping hand.

### *Email Announcements*

We are invited to attend Zeta Chapter's Holiday Breakfast Buffet on Saturday, December 2, 2006 at 10:00 A.M. at the Holiday Inn at Laurel Park. There will be a poinsettia raffle, a raffle on a great selection of gift items, holiday music and fun. The cost per person is \$18. Send a check made out to Delta Kappa Gamma to:

Delphine Hetes  
30701 Sandalwood Circle  
Novi, MI 48377 (248) 669-9565  
RSVP by November 24

Gathering adjourned at 7:10.

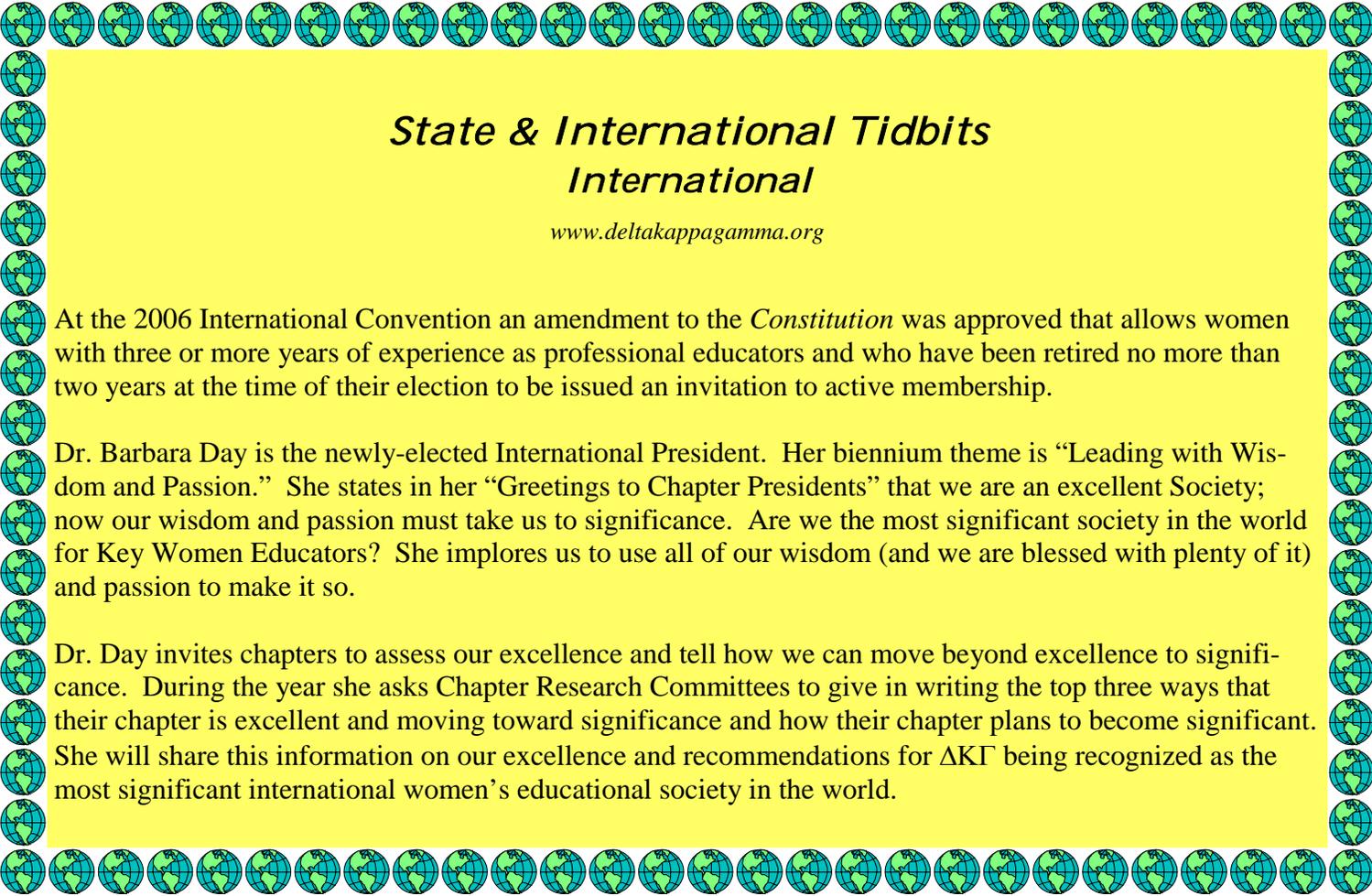
Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Anderson, Recording Secretary

### ***MEA Urges: Vote Yes on Proposal 5***

Proposal 5 is an investment in public education and Michigan's economic future. Voters need to show their support for Michigan's students by voting "yes" on Prop 5.

- Michigan families count on public schools to prepare their children for a successful future. Eighty percent of Michigan voters agree that we must shift our economic focus from auto plants to high tech jobs. Schools can't provide that focus without adequate resources and funding.
- If Michigan schools are going to prepare students for tomorrow's jobs and economy, they must receive adequate funding from the state. Failure to do so dooms our children's future and Michigan's economic future.
- To be eligible for the jobs of the future, students will need education and training beyond grade 12, but high tuition costs have kept college out of reach of Michigan's working families. Prop 5 will make college tuition affordable.
- Michigan's economy depends on quality schools, colleges and universities. Public education in Michigan won't survive if it must continue to deal with shrinking budgets and increasing costs.
- The strength of the Michigan public school system is a key factor in attracting new jobs to the state. By investing in public education now, we can create jobs, grow our economy and secure our children's future.



## *State & International Tidbits*

### *International*

*www.deltakappagamma.org*

At the 2006 International Convention an amendment to the *Constitution* was approved that allows women with three or more years of experience as professional educators and who have been retired no more than two years at the time of their election to be issued an invitation to active membership.

Dr. Barbara Day is the newly-elected International President. Her biennium theme is “Leading with Wisdom and Passion.” She states in her “Greetings to Chapter Presidents” that we are an excellent Society; now our wisdom and passion must take us to significance. Are we the most significant society in the world for Key Women Educators? She implores us to use all of our wisdom (and we are blessed with plenty of it) and passion to make it so.

Dr. Day invites chapters to assess our excellence and tell how we can move beyond excellence to significance. During the year she asks Chapter Research Committees to give in writing the top three ways that their chapter is excellent and moving toward significance and how their chapter plans to become significant. She will share this information on our excellence and recommendations for  $\Delta\text{K}\Gamma$  being recognized as the most significant international women’s educational society in the world.

*(Continued from page 1)*

as suggestive and merit further investigation” according to Briggs. In his review, he points out some principal shortcomings which undermine the validity of the report’s conclusions:

- The Florida policy doesn’t simply ‘retain’ third-graders who fail to achieve the threshold score in the state reading test, in the way the term is commonly understood. In addition to repeating the same grade, Florida’s policy also requires retained students to attend summer school and receive intensive remedial reading instruction.
- While using methods that appear to be appropriate, the authors “omit important information necessary to understand and evaluate” their statistical models, including important descriptive statistics about the samples of students analyzed in the study.
- The authors appear to overstate the retention effect that their report estimates. This is due to the way they quantify the magnitude of the results from their statistical analysis.

On the issue of other interventions that accompany retention, Briggs says that because Greene and Winters do not isolate effects of retention from those of summer school and intensive reading instruction, it is very difficult to conclude whether retention itself had a positive or negative effect.

*Find the 2006 Manhattan Institute report and its review by Derek Briggs at: <http://www.greatlakescenter.org>*

**October 25, 2006**  
**MEA Voice**

## November 29th Agenda

- A. 5:00  
Initiation of New Members– Amy & Committee
- B. 5:30-6:30  
Buffet Dinner– Members and guests pay Cindy prior to the meal. She will pay the bill with one check.
- C. 6:30  
Welcome– Jackie  
Attendance Sheet– Amy W.  
Announcements–Esther & Colleen R.
- **December 13**– Holiday Stockings Update
- D. Quick Opener– Bonnie, Carol P.
- E. 6:45-?  
Tonight’s Program is sponsored by Personal Growth &- Grant-in-Aid Committees. Barbara and Mary Jo are the chairmen. Members will donate holiday items to the auctioned off. You are encouraged to bring guests to dinner and the auction. Chairmen will explain the auction and payment procedure. Buy lots and support our Grant-in-Aid awards for women seeking a degree in education.
- F. Holiday Music provided by– Chris Smith!
- G. Adjournment when we’re out of “stuff!”

### *The Sunshine Committee Sends November Birthday Greetings To...*



*5 Amy Wainwright    10 Sherry Green  
24 Chris Smith        27 Linda Fullerton*

## President's Message



### *Get Smart!*

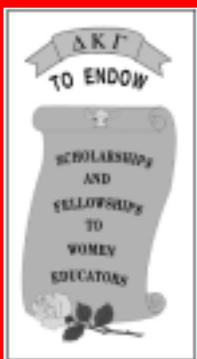
Membership, membership, membership! Here are some more ideas generated by the attendees at the workshop hosted by International Membership Committee during the 2006 convention. We already implement many of the committee’s suggestions.

#### **What are creative ways to nurture members?**

- “We care about you” committee for taking care of sick members
- Celebration of birthdays – birthday cards
- Phone calls when members miss meetings – POSITIVE phone calls
- Rides for those who cannot drive themselves
- Different times and places for meetings
- Baskets for new teachers (treats, supplies – always chocolate!)
- Baby-sitting for members with children
- Volunteer to help with “big project” deadlines for working educators
- Mentor new members by making them known to the group
- Put new members on committees – involve them
- Encourage snowbirds to attend meetings and bring back ideas to their own chapter
- **Mentor the members you sponsor**
- Include as many as possible members in the meetings
- Recognize outstanding projects / programs of the working educators
- Use a member survey to see what members want
- Meals on wheels for members who need such – situations of illness, death
- Clarify roles of committees and encourage ACTIVE participation in them
- Have committee members sit together

*(Continued on page 5)*

## *Seven Purposes of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International*



*(Continued from page 4)*

- Try to do most of committee work at one meeting, rather than calling multiple meetings
- Vary meeting times and places
- Visit other chapters, and meet members from different areas
- Invite non-members to meetings and events
- Make meetings important – provide a reason for attending
- Advertise program topics ahead of time
- Involve as many members as possible in giving the program
- Be sure there is time for fellowship at all meetings
- Let member know that they were missed – in a positive way
- Call members about meetings – personal touch is so important – phone tree
- Carpool with older members
- Warmly welcome every member to every meeting
- Solicit member input and listen
- Newsletters are important for continuous contact with members

I look forward to your support of our Holiday Auction on November 29. Be sure to vote and have a happy Thanksgiving and see you at the Auction!

*Jackie*

### *Gamma Alpha Executive Board & Committee Chairmen 2006-2008 "Caring Makes a Difference"*

|                          |                                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>Jacquelyn Smart:</i>  | <i>President</i>               |
| <i>Judi Fisher:</i>      | <i>First Vice President</i>    |
| <i>Amy Wainwright:</i>   | <i>Second Vice President</i>   |
| <i>Carol Anderson:</i>   | <i>Recording Secretary</i>     |
| <i>Cindy Dietz:</i>      | <i>Treasurer</i>               |
| <i>Barbara Broadley:</i> | <i>Parliamentarian</i>         |
| <i>Judi Fisher:</i>      | <i>Past President</i>          |
| <i>Jacquelyn Smart:</i>  | <i>Corresponding Secretary</i> |

#### *Committee Chairmen*

|   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| <i>Barbara Broadley:</i>  | <i>Personal Growth</i>      |
| <i>Esther Loskowske:</i>  | <i>Service Projects</i>     |
| <i>Marge Braun, Amy Wainwright:</i>                             | <i>Professional Affairs</i> |
| <i>Lynne Elsesser:</i>  | <i>Research</i>             |
| <i>Cindy Dietz:</i>   | <i>US Forum/Legislation</i> |
| <i>Chris Smith:</i>   | <i>Music</i>                |
| <i>Mary Jo Dreffs:</i>  | <i>Grant-in-Aid</i>         |
| <i>Helen Mate:</i>  | <i>Birthday</i>             |
| <i>Carol Holland:</i>   | <i>World Fellowships</i>    |
| <i>Colleen Retherford:</i>                                      | <i>Yearbook</i>             |
| <i>Sherry Green:</i>  | <i>History</i>              |
| <i>Carol Anderson, Donna Colaianne<br/>&amp; Nancy Chiasson</i> | <i>Sunshine</i>             |
| <i>Grace Morgan</i>   | <i>Finance</i>              |
| <i>Bonnie Franka, Joan Murray<br/>&amp; Carol Palk:</i>         | <i>Ice Breakers</i>         |
| <i>Open:</i>  | <i>Nominations</i>          |



## Good Reading

### The Lighthouse

By P.D. James

For those of you who love a good mystery, P.D. James is a must read. I just finished reading "The Lighthouse." This is James' thirteenth novel about the sensitive policeman/poet Adam Dalgliesh. Many of her books have been dramatized by the BBC and I expect this one will be seen on Masterpiece Theater in the future. As with any of her mysteries, "The Lighthouse" is a page turner with a very puzzling murder at its core.

As a policeman, Commander Dalgliesh is used to upheaval and uncertainty in his life. When the assignment comes that he is to investigate a mysterious death on Combe Island in Cornwall, he is torn between his job and his still new relationship.

The island a sanctuary for public officials and acclaimed individuals who wish to unwind from their hectic lives and be assured of safety and privacy. James is able to project the feeling of true isolation in her description of fictitious Combe Island. But paradise is disturbed when a famous novelist wishes to reside permanently on the island. He manages to make many enemies as he tries to set this plan in motion. When his body is discovered hanging from the island's lighthouse there are plenty of characters who had the motive to end his life.

Just like the television show, *Lost*, James gives readers the "back-story" of her characters before actually delving into the mystery at the core of the story. Over the course of James' thirteen books, Dalgliesh and the other main characters have grown and become very real people to me. But you don't have to have read all the previous books to enjoy "The Lighthouse." Sit down in your favorite easy chair with a cup of tea and a biscuit and be transported to Cornwall and "The Lighthouse." Enjoy.

## Good Eating

### Crock Pot Potato Soup

*Cold weather and soup go well together. Put in on in the morning and forget about it.*

#### Ingredients:

- 5 cups cubed peeled potatoes
- 5 cups water
- 2 cups finely chopped onions
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 1 cup sliced carrots
- 1/4 cup butter
- 4 teaspoons chicken bouillon granules
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1/4 teaspoons ground black pepper
- 1 can (12 oz) evaporated milk (fat free is fine)
- 3 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
- 3 to 4 tablespoons chopped fresh chives

#### Procedure:

In a large crock pot, combine the first nine ingredients.

Cover and cook on high for 7 hours or until vegetables are tender.

Add milk, parsley and chives. Mix well.

Cover and cook 30 to 45 minutes longer, or until heated through.

Serve with salad and a crusty roll.

**Note:** Send me your favorite recipe and I will include it in a future newsletter.



## 2006-2007 Gamma Alpha Chapter

Put these dates in your planner now and check out our website for future newsletters, forms, links, photos and more at: [www.migammaalpha.org](http://www.migammaalpha.org) RSVP to Judi Fisher five days before the meeting date at [judifisher@yahoo.com](mailto:judifisher@yahoo.com) or [jackie@mysmartfamily.com](mailto:jackie@mysmartfamily.com) (when Judi's email is on the fritz!)

### **November 29, 2006**

*Initiation of New Members and Annual Holiday Auction. Membership and Personal Growth Committees are hostesses. November's meeting is devoted to fundraising for the Grant-in-Aid for women seeking a degree in education. Application for the Grant-in-Aid is on the website under "Forms." Members donate items to be auctioned off. If you cannot attend, please try to drop your item(s) off for the auction. Here are a few ideas for items that you could donate:*

- A certificate from businesses you frequent
- Homemade baked goods or canned goods
- Massage
- "Theme" baskets (genre books, coffees, teas, cookies, jams, etc)
- Teacher gift baskets
- Holiday crafts or decorations
- Theater or game tickets
- Best Seller Books

*Please be prompt. Members arrive at the Leather Bottle at 5:00 for the Initiation Ceremony. Buffet dinner will be at 5:30 and will cost \$20. Guests are invited to attend the dinner. The Holiday Auction will begin at 6:45. Be sure to invite relatives, friends, colleagues, potential members, etc. This way, we will raise more funds for the Grant-in-Aids and we will not be the only ones spending money!*

**December 2, 2006** *Zeta-Alpha Holiday Brunch and Silent Auction at Holiday Inn at Laurel Park. Sign-up information is in the minutes.*

**December 13, 2006** *Holiday Stockings for the Wayne County Family Center.*

*Service Projects Committee are the hostesses for this meeting. Esther and her committee will purchase Christmas stockings for members to decorate. We are requested to donate small items and treats to fill the stockings. We will make 50 stockings so keep this number in mind when purchasing items. More information in future newsletters.*

**January 10, 2007** *Executive Board beginning at 4:30 at Jackie Smart's Home.*

*Business Meeting and Annual Reports for the State.*

*Chairmen hosting February, March and April's meetings should be prepared to update your meeting details to Executive Board in person or via email.*

*Directions to Jackie's house:*

*North on Farmington Road to Seven Mile. Turn Left.*

*Go ½ mile to Gill (there is a traffic light). Turn Right.*

*After 3 stop signs turn Right on Navin.*

*Make an immediate left on Southampton Drive.*

*I am at the end of the block (Southampton and Whitby) on the right hand side of the street.*

*20158 Southampton. (248) 476-8659.*

## **February 7, 2007**

### *Dream Dinners– All the Ingredients for a Great Meal.*

Legislation and Research Committees are the hostesses. Gamma Alpha has booked a two-hour session at *Dream Dinners*. You will meet at store and assemble three meals (or more if you share meals) that you can take home and store in your freezer. The meals portions are for six. All you have to do to enjoy a delicious family meal is to thaw and cook. Dream Dinners provide all of the ingredients with easy-to-follow instructions and freezer containers. The planning and preparation are done for you, as well as the clean up. All you have to bring is a bag to carry your dinners home and pop them in the freezer until you are ready to use them. Coffee and snacks will be provided by Dream Dinners.

### **Procedure:**

1. Visit [www.dreamdinners.com](http://www.dreamdinners.com)
2. Members will pre-register, pay by credit card on Dream Dinners' secure website and choose three dinners. Our group name is *Delta Kappa Gamma* and the password is *gammaalpha* (one word no spaces or capitals).
3. Our session time for Dream Dinners is February 7 from 5:00-7:00.
4. Arrive and assemble your meals.
5. Freeze your dream Dinners at home.
6. Cost per member is \$49.50.
7. If you don't feel comfortable registering online, call Jeannie (248) 477-8300 for help. More information and reminders will be available in future newsletters.

Livonia Dream Dinners

33591 Seven Mile Road

(Just 1/4 mile west of Farmington Road in the Stamford Plaza, next to the Italian Bakery.)

## **March 7, 2007**

### *Preventing Identity Theft*

Finance and Music Committees are hostesses for this meeting. A speaker from the State Attorney General's office will speak to us about the fastest growing crime, identity theft and some steps to help prevent this from happening to you. Members arrive at the Leather Bottle at 5:00 for conversation and cocktails, dinner at 5:30. Meeting will begin at 6:30. More information in future newsletters.

## **April 25, 2007**

*Birthday Dinner* The Birthday Committee members and Sunshine Committee are the hostesses for this meeting. More information regarding cost and location in future newsletters.

## **May 4-6, 2007**

### *Alpha Iota State Convention 2007*

Detroit Marriott Pontiac at Centerpointe. Judi and Jackie are co-chairs for the state Convention.

Details regarding the convention will be in future newsletters, the *Winter Wolverine* Alpha Iota State website: [www.deltakappagamma.org/MI](http://www.deltakappagamma.org/MI)

## **June 2, 2007**

### *Planning Meeting for 2007-2008*

Join us for breakfast at Five at St. John's at 10:00. Come armed with program ideas for 2007-2008. After breakfast and program planning we can be refreshed with a walk through The Gardens of St. John's Center for Youth and Family. The Gardens have been created to inspire spiritual reflection for all who visit. More information in future newsletters.