



Gamma Alpha Bulletin

The G.A.B. "Let's Talk"

President's Message



"Peace on the Earth. Good Will to Men." We are in the middle of the Christian world's greatest time of celebration. Although not all of the celebration is related to religion and worship, still the whole of Christmas is deeply rooted in the Christian religion. Many people have their one and only interaction with a church on the holiday. Still, most Christian Americans usually have a basic "love thy neighbor" basis for most of their behavior. It is disturbing that some Christians are using their religion as a basis for strong discrimination. We are a nation of many people and many religions. We were founded on the basis of religious freedom. What do our children think when they see a group of Christians demanding that a large independent corporation withdraw its support for a television show that depicts the lives of people of another religion? How much support does mainstream America give to that Christian group and to that company for its decision? We see and hear a lot about the effects of bullying on our students in school and in their lives. Where do they learn meanness, hatred, bullying? If they watch the news, read the paper, listen to their parents discuss the issues of the day, they do not have to take a class in "Bullying 101". They learn from what they see and

what they hear. Children also learn from what they hear when their parents and their teachers and other adults who influence their lives react to the incidents that show meanness and hatred and bullying. If they hear that the demands of this group of Christians receive no support and, in fact, are rejected by their influential adults, they are learning something important, as well. Hopefully enough of us as Americans have the courage and the insight to make certain our children and students hear that bullying on any level is unacceptable.

Can it be true that in just a matter of days we must begin writing 2012 in our datebooks and on our communications? Will it be 20-12 or two thousand twelve? Personally, I lean toward the 20-12. I know that television personalities will decide what the prevailing way of saying it will be. Wouldn't it be great if all the issues we have to ponder were so unimportant?

My wish for all of my sisters in DKG is that you will have a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2012. Be aware of the responsibilities you have as an influential adult in the lives of many children. Your children and students will learn from you how to love, respect

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Meeting Info



January 18

Initiation

Speaker on bullying.
See calendar for details.

No February Meeting

March 21

Community Gardens and
Flower Sale Orders
See calendar for details.

RSVP to Jackie at:
jackie@mysmartfamily.com

Mission

*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.

Don't forget these dates!



January 18, 2012

4:30 p.m. Please arrive on time because of initiation.

Hayden's Grill and Bar

39895 Ford Road

Canton (east of I-275)

Executive Board (President, 1st, 2nd, Vice Presidents, Recording and Corresponding Secretaries, and the Treasurer) **will meet prior to the meeting at 3:30 to complete biennial reports.**

Agenda:

- 50/50 Raffle - Esther
- Book Sale - Carol P.
- Initiation of New Member, Carole Lower - Colleen, et. al
- Speaker: Maria Dismondy is a primary teacher in Plymouth-Canton and author of "The Juice Box Bully" and "Spaghetti in a Hot Dog Bun." Maria stated that in today's society, it's important to remind children that, although we are different on the outside, we are very much alike on the inside. Unfortunately, bullying has become a major problem in the United States. Both of her books are meant to empower children to positively handle tough situations through their timeless messages. **Maria will have books will be available for purchase.** Whether or not you are currently teaching this is still a very important issue so please plan on attending.

March 21, 2012

4:30 p.m.

Hayden's Grill and Bar

39895 Ford Road

Canton (east of I-275)

Agenda:

- 50/50 Raffle - Esther

- Book Sale - Carol P.
- Flower Orders (More information in future newsletters - Amy, Colleen)
- Speaker: TBD

Community gardens are "hot" ideas, especially after the attention they received on *60 Minutes* and by the First Lady. Not only do community gardens defray the rising cost of produce, but the freshness of your crop is superior to anything you can buy at the grocery store. A portion of the harvest is donated to local pantries and community gardens help our country go green.

April 21, 2012

Metro Coordinating Council Luncheon

Antonio's in Dearborn Heights.

More information will follow in future newsletters.

April 25, 2012

4:30 p.m.

Hayden's Grill and Bar

39895 Ford Road

Canton (east of I-275)

- 50/50 Raffle - Esther
- Book Sale - Carol P.
- Discussion regarding our Service Projects and donations
- Speaker: In Michigan, the lottery is big business. So, why is there still a barrage of school closings and major cutbacks, including layoffs? When you buy that lottery ticket, how much goes to fund education? Our speaker is a representative from the Michigan Lottery will give us the lowdown on the lottery and education.

May 4-6, 2012

Alpha Iota State Convention

Radisson Plaza in Kalamazoo

Convention and hotel registration will be available in the Winter *Wolverine* and in future newsletters. Please plan on attending. See Kalamazoo-zoo-zoo blurb on page 11.

May 16, 2012

Gamma Alpha Birthday Dinner
4:30 p.m.
East Side Mario's
31630 Plymouth Road in Livonia

Agenda:

- Chapter Birthday Dinner
- (Pre-payment of \$20 will be necessary)
- Honor Friend of Education, Honor Retirees
- Award Grant-in-Aid
- Service Project Donations (Amy will let us know what to bring)
- Installation of New Officers
- Recommitment Birthday Ceremony

June 23, 2012

Planning Meeting

All of our programs are planned by the membership. Be reminded that this meeting is **not** just for Executive Board, but for members who wish to make our chapter vital. Come to our planning meeting armed with ideas **or** suggestions you want Gamma Alpha to be involved with for 2012-2013. Let us know where you would like our meetings to be held. If you know of a speaker, please bring the contact information. The more cooks in this case the better the soup!

Planning meeting and pot luck luncheon will be held at Carol Anderson's at 11:00. Bring your favorite potato, pasta, fruit, or green salad to pass. We will need rolls and some healthy snacks to munch on while we are meeting. Carol will have dessert and beverages for us. Carol lives in Canton. Take I-275 to Ford Road (west.) She is off Ford Road approximately 2 miles west of I-275. The sub is Nottingham Forest between Lilley and Morton Taylor Roads. From Ford Road turn north on Willow Creek and then left on Wedgewood. Her address is 5855 Wedgewood. Carol's house is on the left. (734-981-3741) Please RSVP your intentions and what you are bringing to Jackie:

jackie@mymartfamily.com



Volunteer Opportunity

If you are still interested in a volunteer opportunity working with the boys at the Methodist Children's Home Society in reading for two hours weekly (M/W or T/Th from 3:30-4:30) please contact Heather Karschner, Development and Marketing Associate at (313) - 531-7462. When you help a child you change a life!

Cherry Almond Loaf



- 1 cup butter or margarine
- 1 package cream cheese, softened
- 1 ½ cups sugar
- 1 ½ teaspoons vanilla
- 4 eggs
- 2 cups flour
- 1 ½ teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon ground cardamom
- 1 cup well-drained halved maraschino cherries
- ½ cup chopped almonds

Glaze:

- ½ cup light corn syrup
- ¼ cup water
- 1 teaspoon almond extract

Cream butter and cream cheese. Add sugar and vanilla. Mix until well blended. Add eggs one at a time, mixing well after each addition. Combine 1 ¾ cups of flour, baking powder and cardamom; gradually add to creamed mixture. Toss remaining 1/4 cup flour with cherries and nuts; fold into batter. Pour into two greased 9X5-inch loaf pans and bake at 325 degrees for 50 -60 minutes. Cool 10 minutes; remove from pans. Combine corn syrup and water; bring to a boil. Cool and stir in almond extract. Pour over cakes. Garnish with cherries and whole almonds.

Makes 2 loaves

Submitted by Fran Saenz

Auction Report/December Minutes

Members and guests began arriving around 4:30. The room at Laurel Manor was beautifully decorated! (Good choice Jackie and Judi!)

Upon checking in and finding a table everyone began to browse the three auction tables. As always our members brought terrific auction items to put at each table! Carol Anderson welcomed all and introduced a few special guests. Mary Jo followed with an explanation of the three types of auctions. While waiting for dinner we browsed the Cup Auction table and Silent Auction table and made bids on items.

Esther sold tickets for the 50/50 drawing. Nancy Chiasson was our winner! We began picking winners from the Cup table as dinner was finished. (The food was wonderful!) Next, we announced the winners of the Silent Auction table. The last auction was our Live Auction. Our auctioneers did a great job! We even auctioned off part of our decorations! (Thanks, Pam). Overall, we had another successful auction. Our grand total was just over \$1,400.00! Thanks to all who had anything to do with this special evening and for your continued generosity.

Final tally for auction

Raffle cups - \$650
Silent auction - \$411
Live auction - \$298
Total - \$1,419

Tentative date for Gamma Alpha's next auction is December 5, 2012. Pencil that date on your 2012 calendar.

Mary Jo Dreffs, Auction Chairman



January

- 1 Carol Anderson
- 7 Donna Colaianne
- 13 Mary Jo Dreffs
- 31 Marie Canzoneri



Happy Birthday, ladies!

(Continued from page 1)

and accept the many people who are different from them. Most of the time they will only need to see how you act and how you speak to others. Sometimes, you may need to make a learning moment out of the issues of the day to help our future leaders know that *peace on earth, good will to men* includes everyone.

So says the prez!
Carol A. Anderson

Looking for Interesting Reading?

Try an **Educator's Award** book! The Alpha Iota State Organization purchases the books that receive DKG's Educator's Award. They are available to members for personal reading or sharing with chapter members. Contact Sally Garrison wsarahsally@aol.com to arrange for the loan of any of these books. A complete list of available books is on the state website. Here are just a few of the recent winners:

2011 *Degrees of Inequality: Culture, Class, & Gender in American Higher Education*/Ann L. Mullen

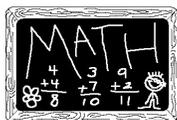
2010 *My Word!: Plagiarism and College Culture*/Susan D. Blum

2009 *Engaging the Disengaged: How Schools Can Help Struggling Students Succeed*/Lois Brown Easton

2008 *Beatrix Potter: A Life in Nature*/Linda Lear

Mirage: Napoleon's Scientists and the Unveiling of Egypt/Nina Burleigh

The Evolution of a Math Problem



Some time ago I purchased a hamburger at Burger King for \$1.58. The counter girl took my \$2 and I was digging for my change and gave her 8 cents. She stood there holding the nickel and three pennies, while looking at the screen on her register. She couldn't make change. Why relay this story? Because of the evolution in teaching math since the 1950s:

1950: A lumberjack sells a truckload of lumber for \$100. His cost of production is $\frac{4}{5}$ of this price. What is his profit?

1960 (traditional math): A lumberjack sells a truckload of lumber for \$100. His cost of production is $\frac{4}{5}$ of this price, or in other words \$80. What is his profit?

1970 (new math): A lumberjack exchanges a set L of lumber for a set M of money. The cardinality of set M is 100, and each element is worth \$1. Make 100 dots representing the elements of set M. The set C is a subset of set M, of cardinality 80. What is the cardinality of the set P of profits, if P is the difference set MC?

1980 (equal opportunity math): A lumberjack sells a truckload of wood for \$100. His or her cost of production is \$80, and his or her profit is \$20. Your assignment: Underline the number 20.

1990 (outcome based education): By cutting down beautiful forest trees, a lumberperson makes \$20. What do you think of his way of making a living? In your group, discuss how the forest birds and squirrels feel, and write an essay about it.

1995 (entrepreneurial math): By laying off 40% of its lumberjacks, a company improves its stock price from \$80 to \$100. How much capital gain per share does the CEO make by exercising his stock options at \$80? Assume capital gains are no longer taxed, because this encourages investment.

1998 (motivational math): A logging company exports its wood-finishing jobs to its Indonesian subsidiary and lays off the corresponding half of its US workers (the higher-paid half). It clear-cuts 95% of the forest, leaving the rest for the spotted owl, and lays off all its remaining US workers. It tells the workers that the spotted owl is responsible for the absence of felleable trees and lobbies Congress for exemption from the Endangered Species Act. Congress instead exempts the company from all federal regulation. What is the return on investment of the lobbying?

2005 Un hachero vende una carretada de Madera para \$100. ¡El costo de la producción es \$80...

Gamma Alpha Bulletin



Sherry, Carol P., and Mary Jo with their guests.



Jackie's guests enjoyed the Christmas crackers.



Barbara's friends seemed to have a good time.



Maybe we'll be lucky in the cup raffle.



Esther selling 50/50 raffle tickets.



Zeta member Nancy Higgins bought lots of raffle tickets.

Holiday Auction Memories

A good time was had by all at Gamma Alpha's annual Holiday Auction. Laurel Manor prepared a delicious dinner for the sixty-three attendees. Our generous membership donated lots of goodies for the cup raffles, silent and live auctions. We had eight Zeta members support our fundraiser. Nancy Chiasson was the lucky winner of the 50/50 raffle. Congrats, Nancy! The favor committee (Jackie, Cindy, Judi, Carol A., Carol V. and Fran) made Christmas crackers for everyone. A good time was had by all who attended.



Ian Smart was the official bartender at the auction.



Joanna, Danielle, Amy, Carol, and Becky at the auction.



Zeta Chapter members support our auction.



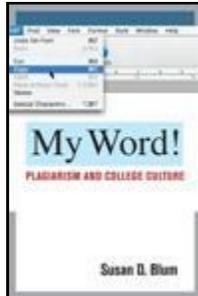
Marie brought a table of friends to the auction.



Lynne and friend checking the table for that special item..

My Word!: Plagiarism and College Culture

Susan D. Blum



The 2010 DKG Educator's Award was presented to Susan Blum at the International Convention in Spokane. Blum, a college anthropologist, presented an interesting session on the plagiarism which led to my purchase of her book. I "borrowed" this review from State President Olive Horning's newsletter.

"Classroom Cheats Turn to Computers." "Student Essays on Internet Offer Challenge to Teachers." "Faking the Grade." Headlines such as these have been blaring the alarming news of an epidemic of plagiarism and cheating in American colleges: more than 75 percent of students admit to having cheated; 68 percent admit to cutting and pasting material from the Internet without citation.

Professors are reminded almost daily that many of today's college students operate under an entirely new set of assumptions about originality and ethics. Practices that even a decade ago would have been regarded almost universally as academically dishonest are now commonplace. Is this development an indication of dramatic shifts in education and the larger culture? In a book that dismisses hand-wringing in favor of a rich account of how students actually think and act, Susan D. Blum discovers two cultures that exist, often uneasily, side by side in the classroom.

Relying extensively on interviews conducted by students with students, *My Word!* presents the voices of today's young adults as they muse about their daily activities, their challenges, and the

meanings of their college lives. Outcomes-based secondary education, the steeply rising cost of college tuition, and an economic climate in which higher education is valued for its effect on future earnings above all else: These factors each have a role to play in explaining why students might pursue good grades by any means necessary. These incentives have arisen in the same era as easily accessible ways to cheat electronically and with almost intolerable pressures that result in many students being diagnosed as clinically depressed during their transition from childhood to adulthood.

However, Blum suggests, the real problem of academic dishonesty arises primarily from a lack of communication between two distinct cultures within the university setting. On one hand, professors and administrators regard plagiarism as a serious academic crime, an ethical transgression, even a sin against an ethos of individualism and originality. Students, on the other hand, revel in sharing, in multiplicity, in accomplishment at any cost. Although this book is unlikely to reassure readers who hope that increasing rates of plagiarism can be reversed with strongly worded warnings on the first day of class, *My Word!* opens a dialogue between professors and their students that may lead to true mutual comprehension and serve as the basis for an alignment between student practices and their professors' expectations.

Submitted by Jackie Smart

DKG International Convention

Take a Bite Out of the Big Apple!



The International Convention will be held in the Big Apple, New York City July 24 - 28, 2012. The Sheraton New York Hotel & Towers is located at 811 7th Avenue, 53rd Street in New York City. Go to www.dkg.org and click on the 2012 Convention tab. The hotel is taking reservations beginning December 1. Group rates until July 1, 2012, subject to availability.

Gamma Alpha Serves the Community



Cuddle Alert at Laurel Park

I volunteered at the “Cuddle Alert” kiosk at Laurel Park from 9:00 to 11:00 on Black Friday morning. Chuck Gaidica, local weatherman and children’s author, was signing his book “Tommy Starts Something Big.” Proceeds from the sales are being donated to Seedlings Braille Books for Blind Children. I folded promotional materials, assembled gift bags, and passed out flyers to rude shoppers. I tried doing some retail therapy after my shift, but the checkout lines in Parisian were ridiculous. Other members signed up to volunteer during the month of December. The picture is of Susan and Chuck Gaidica with Jackie.

Kids 4 Afghan Kids



In January 2010, Khris Nedam initially shared information with Gamma Alpha regarding the non-profit project she and her students started in 1998. A quick refresher from Khris regarding the project. Children in many rural parts of Afghanistan have not had a school or access to a doctor in over 20 years. The long drought in that country, along with the total economic disruption due to the Soviet Union invasion, the Taliban rule and the war have caused the health and well-being of Afghani children and their families to reach desperate proportions. So Khris and her 6th graders in Northville decided to act. They founded **Kids 4 Afghan Kids**, a Michigan-based non-

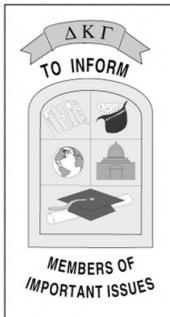
profit organization whose goal is to re-establish educational facilities for boys and girls in Afghanistan and to address the desperate health conditions in which the children and their families live.

It took three years, but her students raised enough money and witnessed - via videotapes, internet and cell phones - the construction of a six-room school, a medical clinic, an orphanage, a bakery/kitchen, a guest house and community well for the residents of Wonkhai Valley, a mountainous area 3 hours southwest of Kabul. Khris and two students updated Gamma Alpha in March 2011 regarding the **K4AK** project.

Over Christmas break this year, a group of Gamma Alpha volunteers helped Khris stuff envelopes for **K4AK** donation materials. Gamma Alpha happily provided labor and postage as part of our community service project.

In February 2012, Gamma Alpha will have the opportunity to help **K4AK** again at the *Empty Bowls for Hunger Awareness* fundraiser. More information regarding this project will be available at the January meeting.

Physical Activity & Academic Success



According to anthropologists, our ancestors walked about 12 miles a day in order to hunt and gather food. This means that as our complex brains were evolving, we were in motion. Over the next 10,000 years, however, civilization intervened and humans became much more sedentary. One obvious detriment is obesity, but weight is not the only reason to reactivate our bodies. Emerging research is finding strong connections between physical activity and brain function, a finding that could help solve another national crisis; poor student academic performance.

In John Medina's book, *Brain Rules*, which describes the 12 rules of how the brain works; rule #1 is "*Exercise boosts brain power.*" Medina supports this with anecdotes, real-life scenarios and real science, uncovering many studies that prove regular exercise, even just twice a week, offers significant advantages. Activity boosts memory, problem solving, reasoning, and attention, all of which are critical for success in the classroom.

The studies Medina cites show we have every reason to be optimistic about the long-term effects of exercise on academic performance, even as an increased focus on test scores causes many schools to cut physical education programs in order to give students more class time.

Medina asks, "What if a school district inserted exercise into the normal curriculum on a regular basis, even twice a day?" For example, students could spend 20-30 minutes in morning aerobics and 20-30 minutes in afternoon strength training. Medina also imagines children walking on treadmills while listening to a math lecture or studying English.

The good news is that dormant cognitive abilities can make a comeback. Medina cites a study that measured the brain power of "couch potatoes,"

exercised them for a period of time, and then retested their brain power. These researchers consistently found that when inactive people began an aerobic exercise program, their mental abilities came back to life in as little as four months. A similar study examined the brain power of children as they began an exercise program of jogging for 30 minutes two or three times a week. After 12 weeks, their cognitive performance had improved significantly. However, perhaps just as important, when the exercise program was taken away, children's scores plummeted back to pre-activity levels. This rise and fall of achievement in adults and children is the direct result of the brain receiving more or less oxygen.

When looking at the growing mound of evidence, it becomes obvious that physical education or physical activity is not a waste of students' time. As Medina notes, our ancestors could not have sat eight hours in the wild or they'd be something's lunch. Moving was a requirement for survival. So, while movement is no longer a requirement of survival, as it was for our ancestors, research shows that physical activity is critical not only to the physical well-being of children but also to their academic success.

Source:

McREL Newsroom
Education Hot Topics

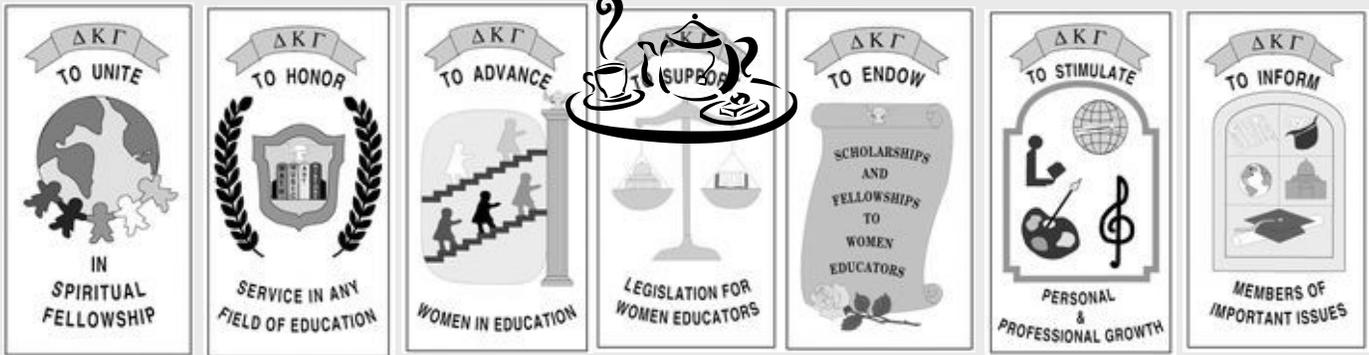
<http://www.mcrel.org/newsroom/hottopicPhysicalAct.asp>



By learning you will teach;
by teaching you will understand.

Latin Proverb

Seven Purposes of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International



Gamma Alpha Executive Board & Committee Chairmen

Executive Board

President	Carol Anderson
1st VP/Program	Mary Jo Dreffs
2nd VP/Membership	Colleen Retherford
Recording Secretary	Carol Palk
Corresponding Secretary	Jackie Smart
Treasurer	Cindy Dietz
Parliamentarian	Fran Saenz

Committee Chairmen

Personal Growth & Service	Amy Wainwright
Professional Affairs	Lynne Elsesser
US Forum/Legislation	Pam Emerson/ Cindy Dietz
Grant-in-Aid	Debbie Ervin
Birthday	Esther Loskowske Helen Mate
World Fellowships	Esther Loskowske
Yearbook/Newsletter	Jackie Smart
Sunshine	Donna Colaianne & Nancy Chiasson
Finance	Judi Fisher
Nominations	Amy Wainwright
Holiday Auction	Mary Jo Dreffs

Kalamazoo-zoo-zoo is Calling You, You, You!

Why should you attend the State Convention in Kalamazoo-zoo-zoo in May 2012? Well, not only will you be able to attend workshop sessions for personal growth and professional development, if you come early to this year's convention, you will find many things you can do in Kalamazoo-zoo-zoo.

The Kalamazoo Valley Museum is right next door to the Radisson. The KMV offers many special programs and exhibits. The Gilmore Car Museum offers a world-class college of vintage cars in a unique rural facility. The Kalamazoo Institute of Arts in only three blocks away from the hotel. The Air Zoo (Kalamazoo Aviation History Museum) is a highly charge, multi-sensory atmosphere that goes beyond anything you have ever seen. You will love the indoor rides and interactive adventures.

If these aren't enough reasons to come to Kalamazoo-zoo-zoo then read on. You can:

- Celebrate being a key woman educator with other key women educators from around the state
- Enjoy the fellowship and camaraderie of Society and chapter members throughout the weekend
- Earn SB-CEU's toward re-certification
- Return home and to your chapter energized and full of new ideas and information you learned in varied workshop sessions
- Find out what State Committees are doing and how they can assist you at the chapter level
- Remember our sisters who have passed on at Sunday morning's "Celebration of Life" ceremony
- Strengthen the personal bonds with chapter members and those you've met at other Society functions
- Shop in world class boutiques and stores
- Enjoy wonderful meals

The registration form is included in the Winter *Wolverine*.