



Gamma Alpha Bulletin

President's Message



Endings. There are so many different kinds. Most of the time we want a happy ending. But it all depends on what is coming to a close. A graduation is probably a bittersweet ending. It means that a course of study is closing and a new opportunity is open to the graduates. That is the sweet part. There is the farewell to friends and fellow students with whom we have studied and worked. That is the bitter part. A retirement is probably another bittersweet ending. A birth is a joyous ending to a nine-month journey. There was anticipation and there was pain. But the ending is a joyous one. A sad ending occurs when there is a death. Even when an anticipated and natural death happens, there is almost always sadness with the loss. A happy ending may be the return of a loved one from a military deployment.

As teachers, we experience endings on a regular basis. We have an ending every June as the year's group of students

moves to another level. Many jobs do not have such defined endings and seem to drag on and on. In that respect, we are fortunate. In other areas of our lives we may have some control over endings. Most specifically, we must have beginnings if we wish to have endings. It feels great to indulge in the warmth of a happy ending. It means we have traversed a journey that is satisfying.

That is the feeling that I have now. I was a reluctant beginner in the journey of chapter president. But as my journey progressed, I experienced a feeling of camaraderie and support that I could not have felt by staying safely and quietly in the ranks. My two years as Gamma Alpha president were made easy by our chapter's close association with the state administration at the time. Thank you, Jackie! It was made even easier by the unfailing efforts of our members. Thank you, Gamma Alpha! I had the chance to pursue a beginning that I did not

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Meeting Info

See calendar for details



June 20

Planning meeting

RSVP

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!



June 20, 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 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

June

19 Fran Saenz

Happy Birthday,

Ladies!



July

6 Lynda Neuroth

9 Joanna Eiwen

16 Suzanne Bacinski

19 Stephanie Smith

20 Carol Holland

21 Judy Handley

30 Judy Morante

How Elementary Teachers Know the School Year is Almost Over

- "We've been in school for NINE MONTHS now and you're telling me that you don't know where we keep the tissues?"
You feel like if you have to sing the same calendar songs one more day, you might just scream.
You notice your walls becoming more and more bare each day as you slowly take things down so the kids won't notice
You start being very reluctant to hand out new glue sticks because you are not sure there are enough to last until the end of the year.
All the pencils in your pencil basket have no erasers.
The kids crayons are about the size of your fingernail.
In order to get all the end of the year assessments done, you put in a video
You are hesitant to create any new centers, charts, worksheets, etc. unless you're SURE you can use them next year.
Every time you pass a co-worker in the hallway, they roll their eyes and ask, "How many more days?!"
It's too hot not to open the windows in the classroom but there's too much pollen to do it.
All school supplies are being carefully rationed to make sure they last "until June."
You don't recognize your class from a distance because they have gotten so tall.
The kids in the grade below you are looking the kids you started the year with.
The kids are asking you every five minutes if they can have a drink of water.



May 16, 2012 Minutes



Our 33rd Birthday Dinner was called to order at 4:45 p.m. at East Side Mario's. Carol Anderson gave an update on the State Convention. We were recognized as having the highest acclaimed newsletter, yearbook, and the best attendance at the convention. Jackie Smart was awarded the *State Woman of Distinction* Award for all of her wonderful work. Congratulations Jackie. We initiated two new members Ellen August and Debbie Novak. Welcome Ellen and Debbie. Our Grant in aid recipients, Alyssa Sandoval and Kendall Carter, were recognized and given their awards. Kendall is a Wayne Memorial graduate and will be attending EMU. Alyssa is a 2nd time recipient and sent a lovely note expressing her appreciation for the award.

Our wonderful Jackie received an additional award of Chapter Woman of Distinction. Helen Mate won the door prize that Grace had donated.

The new officers were installed: Lynne Elsesser is President, Mary Jo Dreffs is First Vice President, Colleen Retherford is Second Vice President, Carol Anderson is Recording Secretary, and Amy Wainwright will serve as Corresponding Secretary. Fran Saenz and Cindy Dietz accepted Lynne's appointments as Parliamentarian and Treasurer, respectively.

Our planning meeting will be held on June 20th at Carol Anderson's house in Canton. See **Calendar** for directions. One of the topics to be discussed will be planning something for our Alpha Iota's State's 75th anniversary.

Submitted by Carol Palk, Recording Secretary

Summer is Here... So Now What?

School is out and many teachers look forward to spending their days lounging by the pool, shopping and spending time with family and friends. Some have planned an exotic vacation or cruise while others choose to enroll in graduate classes. However, there are some who have a need to do something out of the ordinary...something we don't have time to do during the school year. If you find yourself in the latter category then you will want to check out the five ideas teachers can do during their summer break. Hopefully these will inspire you to make a difference this summer.

- **Take a class:** gourmet cooking, painting, yoga, piano, photography, etc. Let your creativity come to life this summer and learn a new hobby or perfect an old one.
- **Parks and Recreation:** contact your local park and recreation board to find out if they are looking for any volunteers to assist with activities.
- **Read children's books:** to stay up on what your students are reading check out the most read books for your student's age group at your local library and get reading. Surprise your students in the fall with knowledge on some of their favorite books.
- **Volunteer:** nursing homes, hospitals, homeless shelters and animal shelters are just a few places that are always looking for volunteers. If you have a talent or skill you would enjoy sharing with adults or children then volunteering may be just your thing to do this summer.
- **Plan an educational summer trip:** if you have ever dreamed of taking a summer trip, one in which expands your knowledge and would inspire you in the classroom be sure to check out scholastic.com/instructor. Here you will find a variety of trip ideas.



Gamma Alpha Birthday Dinner Pictures



Helen's birthday cupcakes -YUM!



Some of the Wayne-Westland gang...



Ellen, Barb, and Marie chatting away...



Installation of Officers was handled by Esther, Helen and Jackie in a *modernized* Installation Ceremony.





Grant-in-Aid recipient Kendall Carter with her mother, Sheryl, and Cindy.



Ellen and Debbie light their candles during the Initiation Ceremony.



Initiation Ceremony for Ellen and Debbie

“Enter our company, share our warm friendships...”

Convention Memories



Cindy, Fran, Judi, Mary Jo, Carol, and Lynne congratulate Jackie on receiving *2012 State Woman of Distinction* award. Thank you Carol and Gamma Alpha for the nomination. Cindy and Fran were rose “plunkers” during the Presidents’ Procession. Amy attended the convention but had to leave before the banquet. Esther registered but decided to stay home with stomach flu. After the banquet, Gamma Alpha members raised a glass and enjoyed some snacks in Kathy Muench’s (Alpha Omega) room. About 20 ladies stopped by. It got a little crowded in there.



Note outgoing presidents Carol’s **BIG** smile! Carol successfully managed the responsibilities of Gamma Alpha president. We thank Carol for her time, her leadership, and her inspiring *President’s Messages* in the newsletter each month. Gamma Alpha will be in excellent hands during incoming Chapter President Lynne Elsesser’s biennium. In two years your smile will be as big as Carol’s we expect.



Marilyn Hopkins, Mu Chapter and State Personal Growth and Services Ch., presented the *State Woman of Distinction* award to a surprised Jackie during the President's Banquet in Kalamazoo in May. The *SWOD* is a competitive award presented to a candidate who has made significant contributions to DKG and education beyond the chapter level.



Amy is a wonderful example of a Gamma Alpha member. She was the presider for the Leadership Training workshop that Jackie and the Leadership Development Committee presented for incoming officers. Incoming officers obtained essential information about their responsibilities, as well as leadership ideas and collegial support. Amy also presided several other sessions during the convention. She also coordinated our involvement with the Methodist Children's Home Society, collected and delivered our donations to the MCV. She organized our first spring plant fundraiser. We love you, Amy. Way to go!

Top 10 To Do's for Teachers During Summer Vacation Use the Summer to Prepare for Next Year

Summer vacation is a time for teachers to recharge and refocus as they prepare for another group of students. Here are ten to do's that teachers can work on during this summer vacation.

1. Get Away From It All

A teacher must be "on" every day of the school year. In fact, as a teacher you often find it necessary to be "on" even outside of the school setting. It is essential to take the summer vacation and do something away from school.

2. Try Something New

Expand your horizons. Take up a hobby or enroll in a course away from your teaching subject matter. You will be surprised how this can enhance your teaching in the coming year. Your new interest may be the thing that connects with one of your new students.

3. Do Something Just for Yourself

Get a massage. Go to the beach. Go on a cruise. Do something to pamper and take care of yourself. Taking care of body, mind, and soul is so important to having a fulfilling life and will help you recharge and restart for next year.

4. Reflect on Last Year's Teaching Experiences

Think back over the previous year and identify your successes and your challenges. While you should spend some time thinking about both, concentrate on the successes. You will have greater success improving upon what you do well than focusing on what you did poorly.

5. Be Informed About Your Profession

Read the news and know what's happening within education. Today's legislative acts could mean a big change in tomorrow's classroom environment. If you are so inclined, get involved.

6. Maintain Your Expertise

You can always learn more about the topic you teach. Check out the latest publications. You might find the seed for an excellent new lesson.

7. Choose a Few Lessons to Improve

Pick 3-5 lessons that you feel need improvement. Maybe they just need enhancing external materials or maybe they just need to be scrapped and rewritten. Spend a week rewriting and rethinking these lesson plans.

8. Assess Your Classroom Procedures

Do you have an effective tardy policy? What about your late work policy? Look at these and other classroom procedures to see where you can increase your effectiveness and decrease time off task.

9. Inspire Yourself

Spend some quality time with a child, your own or someone else's. Read about famous educators and inspirational leaders. Check out these inspirational books and inspirational movies. Remember why you got into this profession to begin with.

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eagerly seek but it led me to a wonderful journey and a happy ending. I am richer for it. We all hope for happy endings. But we must challenge ourselves to indulge in more beginnings if we are to experience those endings. Less hesitation at a chance to try something new is the way to create happy endings. My advice to all is this. Take the plunge and try something challenging or new. Your new beginning is the only way to open yourself to the chance for a happy ending.

For the last time...So says the prez!
Carol A. Anderson

"While parents possess the original key to their offspring's experience, teachers have a spare key. They, too, can open or close the minds and hearts of children."

~Haim Ginott

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10. Take a Colleague to Lunch

It's better to give than to receive. As the school year approaches, teachers need to know how much they are appreciated. Think of a fellow teacher who inspires you and let them know how important they are to students and to you.



By Melissa Kelly, *About.com Guide*

Remember When?

A computer was something on TV.
from a science fiction show of note
A window was something you hated to clean
and ram was the cousin of a goat

Meg was the name of my girlfriend
and gig was a job for the nights
now they all mean different things
and that really mega bytes

An application was for employment
A program was a TV. show
A cursor used profanity
A keyboard was a piano

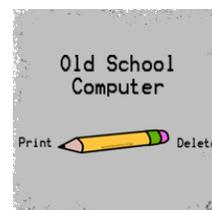
Memory was something that you lost with age
A CD was a bank account
And if you had a 3" floppy
you hoped nobody found out

Compress was something you did to the garbage
Not something you did to a file
And if you unzipped anything in public
you'd be in jail for awhile

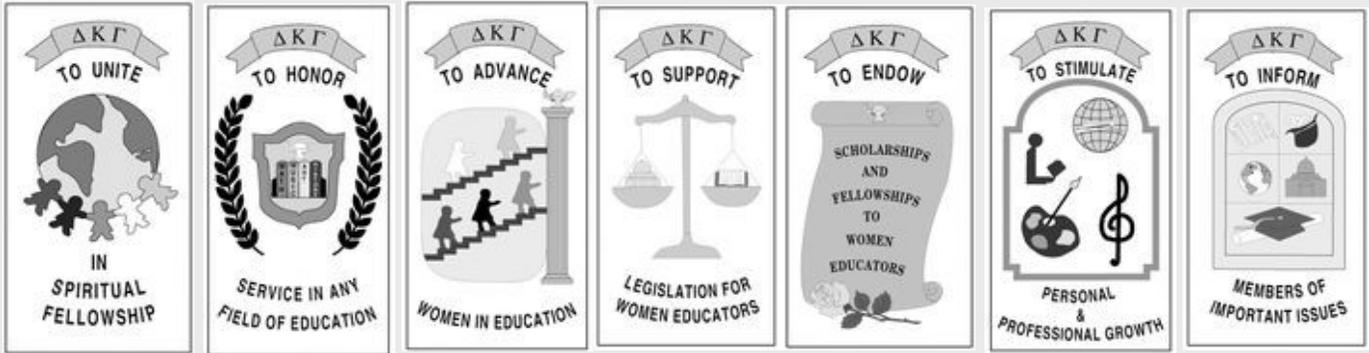
Log on was adding wood to the fire
Hard drive was a long trip on the road
A mouse pad was where a mouse lived
And a backup happened in your commode

Cut you did with a pocket knife
Paste you did with glue
A web site was a spider's home
and a virus was the flu

I guess I'll stick to my pad and paper
And the memory in my head
I hear nobody's been killed in a computer crash
But when it happens they wish they were dead!



Seven Purposes of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International



Gamma Alpha Executive Board & Committee Chairmen

Executive Board

President	Lynne Elsesser
1st VP/Program	Mary Jo Dreffs
2nd VP/Membership	Colleen Retherford
Recording Secretary	Carol Anderson
Corresponding Sec.	Amy Wainwright
Treasurer	Cindy Dietz
Parliamentarian	Fran Saenz
Committees	
Service Projects	Judy Morante, Amy Wainwright
US Forum/Legislation	Pam Emerson
Grant-in-Aid	Donna Colaianne
Birthday Dinner	Helen Mate, Esther Loskowske, Jackie Smart
Vacation Auction	Cindy Dietz & Esther Loskowske
50/50 Raffles	Donna Colaianne & Joanna Eiwen
Yearbook	Jackie Smart
Newsletter	Amy Wainwright
Sunshine	Barbara Broadley, Ellen August
Finance	Grace Morgan, Judi Fisher, Cindy Dietz, Carol Anderson
Nominations	Carol Anderson, Carole Lower
Holiday Auction	Mary Jo Dreffs, Carol Palk, Debbie Novak, Marie Canzoneri, Ellen August, Jackie Smart



Michigan Teacher of the Year

Paul Galbenski, the 2011-12 Michigan Teacher of the Year, shared his passion for career and technical education. As the first career and technical teacher to hold the title, he knows the importance of preparing students for the future and the place career and technical education holds in delivering the Michigan Merit Curriculum. Paul's examples show that career and technical education is a way to engage students in relevant experiences. "It's a good investment," said Galbenski.

