

Epsilon Chapter News

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Rowan County, NC
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Region VIII
April, 2008

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

A Message from Epsilon President

Thank you for allowing me to serve...

by Gerrie Blackwelder



**New Officer
Installation: 10:30
May 3, 2008
John Calvin Presby-
terian Church**

Devotions:
Cindy Pope

Greeters:
Lovetta Moore, Chair

Attendance:
Joyce Caddell,
Chair

Hostess:
Suzanne Cox, Chair

NOTE!!

Mail the envelope with lunch plans for the Installation of new officers by April 28th to Dr. Stiller.

Your lunch includes a salad, a fruit salad, chips and drinks for \$10.00

Keep your hearts open for Pauline Iddings.

Adair Doran invites members to call her with ideas for next year's meetings.

One of my favorite books is by NC Literary Hall of Fame recipient, Wilma Dykeman. *The Tall Woman* (1966), tells of a determined mother's fight for education and justice in the years after the Civil War. It isn't my favorite because it so cleverly written, but because I met Dykeman on several occasions at North Carolina English Teacher's Conferences and have a signed copy of *Tall Woman*. From those public introductions I know her to be a tall woman who cast a long shadow as her central character in the text had done.

Each of you are Tall Women as well. Your shadows cast across North Carolina and

reach into the homes of children in ways that many of you will never know. You cast shadows by simply committing to an organization as powerful and influential as this Epsilon Chapter.

Like many, I have struggled with all manner of Christian worries including how and why I would be known beyond my years. Many of us hope to be remembered for our various contributions to organizations, for our success in terms of acquired wealth, or for a charismatic personal style.

Only this year did I truly learn that service, commitment, and the cumulative effect of those deeds *are* our legacy. When I was asked to join *Delta Kappa Gamma*, the first person that I chose to tell was a former South Rowan student, April

Williamson, who has grown in our profession.

April was one of only three students from a journalism class who graduated from high school two years later. She had a work ethic that was unmatched then, and approaching 30, she has few peers who have her energy and desire to achieve.

I well remember writing her letter of recommendation to UNC-C as well as a letter praising her for the NC Teaching Fellowship Selection Committee. She sailed through both reviews, championed the interviews and took her elementary teaching certificate 7 years ago. I enjoyed her success. I still take pride in each of her forward steps and we talk often of the unfolding timeline of her career. (Continued page 3)

State Conference to be in Hickory NC

"BUILDING TOMORROW TODAY"

Celebrate the Chapter: The Heartbeat of the Society

April 25-27, 2008

Please plan to attend the Eta State Conference to learn more about the business of Delta Kappa Gamma and enjoy growing in a relationship with other members from the state.

Carolyn Toben, founder of The Center for Education, Imagination, and the Natural World will be the keynote speaker for the Friday evening General Session. At the Saturday evening banquet, Dr. Barbara Day, International President, will address the state membership. The Sunday Brunch will be in honor of Dr. Day for her outstanding leadership to the organization's international reach. Continued on page 3

ADAIR DORAN, AND OTHERS, TO TAKE EPSILON REIGNS ON MAY 3

Adair Doran takes the leadership position on *May 3* at John Calvin Presbyterian Church at the 10:30 installation. Doran, who is a well known teacher at Salisbury High has attained much in her tenure in Rowan –Salisbury Schools and will provide able leadership for our organization as well. A graduate of Davidson College, and certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, Doran is a career educator who appreciates the mission of Delta Kappa Gamma to honor women educators.

Doran, who teaches World History, US History, and AP Government to a wide range of student learners, has touched the lives of many. She is often busy this time of year with scholarship recommendation letters. Our future president also serves on various educational committees with in the county.

Further, Doran finds herself so happy at Salisbury and so enjoys the students that she is known, not merely for her ability to successfully motivate students to learn and appreciate points of history, but also for the homemade cakes that she bakes for athletes in her classes!

An avid reader, Doran is a member of two book clubs and is a member of First Presbyterian Church and the mother of three children. “I am looking forward to a great learning experience and the opportunity to work with such outstanding educators” , she reflects on her appointment as President..

First Vice President Sharon Deal, who will do all program planning for the next biennium, has served local educators and parents in the highest capacity as a Rowan-Salisbury School Board Chairman . Deal taught for many years and became a member of Delta Kappa Gamma in 1999. She served as the Second Vice President for Membership in the last biennium.

New to the officer roster are Gina Barringer and Jennifer Lentz. Barringer came into Delta Kappa Gamma in 2005 and is currently serving at Corriher-Lipe School. Barringer, a technology Facilitator will be a great asset to Epsilon chapter with knowledge of web pages and other technology for the future. Former Curriculum Coach Lentz is now serving as an Assistant Principal at Southeast Middle School.

New Officer Installation to be at John Calvin Presbyterian



At the March 6 meeting at RPL, newly elected President Adair Doran introduced the idea of moving the place and time of the installation of officers to the school office and the time to 10:30. We will indeed

meet at 10:30 to facilitate the lunch menu, but the place remains **John Calvin Presbyterian Church.**

Hostess Committee members will provide table decorations, but Adair has handled the catering needs for the

salad selection which will be offered.

Please send the enclosed envelope provided to Dr. Stiller with your name and a check for \$ 10.00 to secure a meal for yourself on Saturday May 3, at 10:30.

We will begin with a brief business meeting in the sanctuary and have a musical interlude by selected singers from Jesse C. Carson High School prior to the lunch. Please join me in congratulating our new officers !

Thank you for allowing me to serve... (continued from page 1)

During April's 6th year of teaching, she jumped at the chance to do National Board work and on the first try, conquered that as well. Through that ordeal, though I had met her as a lanky, long limbed high school sophomore, the lines between teacher/student and mother/daughter became blurred and she joined my family as my "daughter".

Over the years, I see how my involvement in continued educational growth and leadership encouraged her to reach deeper into this profession and carve a place for herself while reaching Rowan children in need.

The year that I took the First Vice Presidential role, she stepped up in her school setting and became SIT chair. When I became President, she led her third grade team in a re-organizational effort and decided to become a mother.

Throughout the time that I so blandly led ten annual Epsilon meetings, this energetic teacher has astounded me, and apparently some others educators as well. Not only did she birth a beautiful little boy named Cameron, she earned the Teacher of the Year title at her school, is a Rowan County Teacher of the Year Finalist, and through a grant writing competition became a 21st Century Classroom teacher.

Before you think that I am bragging of my own influence, allow me to say that your collective involvement as members in a highly organized and specific society with seven strong purposes has been an unseen catalyst to a young woman's success. The espoused mission of our organization: "to promote professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education" has provided avenues of academic growth and maturity that cast long shadows. The sense that women educators are united in shared growth, that there is an organized means of honoring hard work and creative approaches to learning is the basis of our effort. And, yes, I will suggest her as a nominee for membership during the next new member inductions!

More than anything else, I have learned this biennium is that my career as a teacher is not about me. It is about empowering women educators to reach for the end of the shadow and cast further. Thank you for allowing me to serve you, and through you, April.

State Conference in Hickory (continued from page 1)

Workshops are planned to meet the interest of all members. Topics will range from the 2008 NC Primary Math Curriculum to a session on line dancing. An arts and informational fair will feature the work of Eta State members with displays by visual artists showing water colors, oil paintings, pottery, needle work, etc. Those who attend the 2008 convention will also have the opportunity to enjoy both vocal and instrumental musical presentations.

On a personal note, the conventions are eye opening events in which highly engaged women stretch their efforts to share teaching methods in creative ways and seek to know ways to expand the reach of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International through assistance to other countries. Witnessing the positive environment of support for fellow women educators who are provided avenues for publication and scholarships is a positive look at the achievement of those who pass their skills, talents, and abundance on to others. Not only is it amazing to see lifetime members in high profile leadership positions, but the evening of scholarship presentations is a near tearful event as those who receive the needed dollars, reach out with respect and gratitude to those who gave so much. If you can possibly put this event on your calendar, join Dr. Martha West, Dr. Stiller, Betsy Rich, and Adair Doran as they attend this great event.

-Dates to Remember-

New Officer Installation

Saturday 10:30 a.m.

May 3, 2009 – John Calvin Presbyterian
Church



Please mail the enclosed envelope and your \$10.00 payment for the luncheon to Dr. Elaine Stiller by April 28th. Remember that we voted to change the time to 10:30!

Mission Statement

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

Minutes of Meeting: March 6, 2008

March 6, 2008
Rowan Public Library

President Gerrie Blackwelder presided over the meeting, welcoming all those in attendance. A special greeting was extended to our state officer, Jean Reid, Director of Region VIII.

Dr. Martha West presented a devotional message, quoting many inspirational thoughts from Carl Sagan, Helen Keller, and others. Members were reminded not to hesitate in embracing the opportunities of service and growth sprinkled on them throughout their lives.

Loving memorials were spoken for Joan Ashley. Her impact within this chapter and beyond is ongoing and her sense of humor will be greatly missed. Dr. West and Phyllis Martin spoke of her loving contributions to her students and friends. Bonita Bloodworth and Lisa Schnuit reminded members of Joan's fun and positive approaches to all situations she en-

countered along her way.

Dr. Elaine Stiller noted that a \$50.00 donation has been made by the Literacy Council in Joan's memory. Additional scholarship funds were given by this chapter's members who were in attendance.

Betsy Rich introduced the chapter's old friend and newest honorary member, Virginia Booth. Sharon Deal invited Mrs. Booth to sign the chapter's membership book.

Christine Barringer was presented a \$500.00 scholarship. Christine is pursuing National Board renewal status.

Joyce Simmons asked members to remember Ruby Knox who is very ill at Trinity Oaks and to also extend their comfort to her daughter, Joyce McLaughlin during this time. It was noted that Phares Sechler is recuperating well from recent knee surgery.

The slate of officers was presented for the upcoming term

These were accepted by vote.

They are Adair Doran, president, Sharon Deal, vice-president, and Barbara Moose, second vice-president. Gina Barringer will be corresponding secretary and Jennifer Lentz will be recording secretary.

Elaine Stiller and Gerrie Blackwelder will serve as treasurer and parliamentarian, respectively.

Adair Doran introduced the meeting's honored speaker, Norma Honeycutt, Executive Director of Partners in Learning on the Catawba College campus. This five-star facility serves as an early intervention child care center for many at-risk babies and preschoolers. Mrs. Honeycutt cited these children as her absolute passion. She shared a slide show presentation and encouraged everyone to visit and see firsthand the remarkable things that are happening on a daily basis on this campus. There is currently a building program going on, made possible by a generous grant from Food Lion, to expand the capacity of Partners in Learning to serve an additional thirty children. Current enrollment is limited to one hundred twenty-three.

The meeting was then adjourned until May 3, 2008.



2008 E ta S tate Convention
April 25-27 in Hickory at the
Holiday Inn Select.