

# EPSILON CHAPTER NEWS

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Rowan County, NC

Region VIII

Volume IV, No. 1

July 2007



**First Meeting :**  
**Saturday,**  
**August 25, 2007**  
**Rowan Public**  
**Library**

**Devotions:**  
Becky Withers  
**Greeters:**  
Julia Patton, Chair  
**Attendance:**  
Carolyn Myers,  
Chair  
**Hostess:** Jane  
Watson, Chair

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## When Words Fail... Literally by Joan

Don't go into the Krispy Kreme and ask for a document and a diet sofa. They look at you funny. This is just one of the things that I'm learning about my newly revised brain.

Another thing is that the world is still wonderful and funny. When the esteemed brain surgeon walked into the examining room, he placed his hand on my husband's head and said, "How long have you had these headaches?" He answered, "About 49 years, but my wife is the patient."

And one of the most important things: they sew your hair back on. (And that was one of my worries, having just spent seventy dollars on a color job.)

You have a whole new set of excuses for all occasions. "I feel so weak." "I'm not supposed to do that." "The doctor told me not to stress myself." (The truth is that I feel amazing. I went to church on Sunday after I had brain surgery on Tuesday!)

Brain cancer awareness bracelets are grey! Yuk!

Today I ate bacon. Three pieces.

Be prepared. When Dr. Dreamy, my nickname for him, told my family he could not guarantee any speech function, I wasn't ready to let that go. I made colored flash cards. Green was for nurses: *I want to see a mirror. Here is my underwear?* Orange was for my family and friends: *"I am so happy to see you. You are my favorite spouse., child, sibling, nephew, friend, etc.* Yellow cards were nag cards for my baby.: *Slow down. Move over*

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## First Meeting on August 25, to Be a Book Talk...

By A dair Doran

Come celebrate the beginning of a new school year and the end of our summer vacation (for most of us) on Saturday, August 26, 2006 at 9:00 in the Rowan Public Library. **Bring your most favorite summer read to "show and tell" with your fellow sisters of DKG.** In honor of Joan Ashley, who started our book swap, we want to start the new year off with what most of us love to do, talk about books we have read and thoroughly enjoyed. After our refreshments and a brief business meeting, we will divide into smaller groups in order to facilitate your ability to really show off your book and to explain why you liked it. If you don't have a book, come anyway and be inspired by what you see and hear!

See you on August 25th!

## Martha West Makes A Difference

In only a few weeks, the first **Martha Kirkland West Scholars** will arrive at Catawba College to attend the Shirley Peeler Ritchie Academy for Teaching. These young scholars who have distinguished themselves through high academic successes in high school, all dream of making a difference in the lives of others as Dr. West has so successfully done throughout her career. In order to compete for the coveted scholarships the applicants must have superior SAT/ACT scores, competitive GPA's in high school academics, as well as, previous community service records. To be considered for the West Scholarship, each must have demonstrated a strong commitment to teaching. While we congratulate the young scholars, it is the honor to West and her commitment to Early Childhood Education in Rowan County and at Catawba College that set the high standards for these aspiring educators. Dr. West, a second generation Epsilon member, is a lifetime educator, a Salisbury native, attended Catawba and taught there as well as served as an administrator for the Rowan-Salisbury School System. Please remember to congratulate her and these exceptional scholars who carry her name into the classroom this year!

### News We Can Use!

You are invited to pick up red Books at the next meeting at RPL at 9:00 on Saturday, August 25th

Expansion Meeting to be Held August 10! Feel Free to Join Us!

Past Presidents are reminded of the August 10 Expansion meeting at The Hurley Room at Rowan Public Library. Interest in expansion was raised at the March meeting at Waterworks. Past presidents are invited to share views. Please bring your opinions, ideas and concerns about a separation of membership. This would allow our Epsilon membership to

expand into another chapter. An exploratory committee made up of past presidents was suggested and all have received letters inviting them to the August 10th meeting at 10:00 in the Hurley Room of the RPL. However the meeting is open to all interested parties concerned with expansion and opening another chapter. As a side note, our research has discovered that

Epsilon has already hosted three expansion groups. Dr. West found that the first was Albemarle, the second was Cabarrus, the third was Lexington-Davidson in the late 60s or early 70s. If you are interested in joining this discussion, please call Gerrie.

For Reservations:  
**704-637-6004 or email at**  
**blackwgw@rss,k12.nc.us**

## New Members Represent the Best of the Best

New members are an exciting tribute to the growing commitment of teachers in Rowan County. Dr. Judy Grissom was reinstated last Fall as she returned to take the superintendent's position with Rowan-Salisbury Schools, Inc. We also took in five Other new members at the

May 5 induction and luncheon.

All inductees were present at an orientation at Carson High and all were present on Saturday with the exception of Flo Peck, honorary inductee.

New members present include Marion Lytle and Phyllis Martin, our second

honorary member.

Tamara Rolla attended with her nominator Cindy Pope as well as Kellie Withers, who attended with her mother-in-law Becky Withers.

Please welcome each of these inductees into the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.



In the shattering metonymy, "I wear the ring" author Pat Conroy wrote as the opening in his stunning novel *The Lords Of Discipline*, he succinctly expressed that he knew, felt, and proudly possessed the deep honor that the Citadel ring inherently suggests. His prize, hard-won, is known to all Southerners as the graduation present from one of the most demanding schools in America. Only those who complete strenuous military training and scholarly academic preparation earn the *honor* to wear that ring..

Conroy's meticulous words haunt me when I drift toward forgetting what is truly valuable. When I hear his words, I remember that I am a Key Woman Educator...that I wear the gold Delta Kappa Gamma pin...

Some possessions come to us neatly wrapped in colorful boxes, but my president's pin came wrapped in love.

When Joan Ashley served as Epsilon President, she was given a boxed, thoughtfully ordered pin that arrived in time for her induction as officer. But when one of her former teachers and Delta Kappa Gamma sisters died, the family sent the pin to Joan. What a treasure that Joan has the honor to wear her teacher's pin, to display a heritage of loving the classroom, of touching lives through discovery and exploration, and the opportunity to remember the words and

lessons of her mentor and teacher. The original pin was removed from the red ribbon and her heritage pin placed carefully just below the Delta Kappa Gamma key. Both are symbols of professional respect and leadership, both are by invitation only, and both are international reminders of the power of teaching and learning.

Quietly and privately, Joan asked me to wear her original president's pin. I very nearly wept. This pin is a symbol of all the things that our organization represents: the seven purposes, the shared fellowship, the professional mentoring, the opportunity for continuing education, the outreach projects that enhance our community. All of these reasons make me proud to say..."I wear the pin...Joan's pin."

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## DUES REMINDER!!

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Dues for the 2007-2008 society year are due by mid-September.

Please send your checks, made out to The Delta Kappa Gamma Society to

Elizabeth Rich at  
15 Beauregard Drive  
Spencer, NC 28159



"The dream begins with a teacher who tugs and pushes you to the next plateau;; sometimes poking you with a sharp stick called 'truth'."  
Dan Rather



**Mission Statement**

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

**J o a n c o n t i n u e d f r o m p a g e 1**

*Over to the right lane. Take your pills. Take out the garbage. Pay the bills. Eat vegetables. Kiss me even when nobody is looking. I'm so happy. I'm mad as hell. (I expect to add a few more when the time comes to pass them to my friends.)*

Today is far enough to see. Fortunately, the future is in better hands than mine.

Everywhere, I find myself surrounded by the most amazing people. I have always marveled at the sense of connection women in particular women educators, have to each other. It's a thing of such incredible spiritual beauty as they nurture and educate, how they make each other visualize possibilities—all the while supporting each other. I never expected this support in this way, but I feel absolutely surrounded by others' strength.

Lord, what a lucky woman I am!

Optional Reading: A Word A bout Packaging by Joan A shley

Is it just me, or is anyone else having trouble opening things? Perhaps it's just another sign of aging, but I think not. How many actual minutes per day/week/month do you spend trying to open stuff?

I used to love getting packages, but that was before Styrofoam. I don't now which is worse, the Styrofoam containers of the little peanuts. I think, maybe it's the peanuts, because not only do they fly everywhere, but static electricity makes them stick to everything.

Cursed be t the fiend who came up with bubble packaging. I need my batteries NOW. Sometimes I need to open a new package of lunch meat. Which is why I pack a lot of peanut butter sandwiches.) Do you rip the cardboard apart? Do you use scissors? Do you jump up and down on it? Cardboard ripping usually doesn't work for me. Scissors are better, if you can find a pair in a hurry. Jumping up and down may ruin the product, but it is very satisfying.

Remember when with pimento cheese cartons had reusable lids that kind of peel-popped off? I hate

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*Joan's Optional Reading Continued from Page 4*

these things that come up in little sections around the lid or tear off, making sure that you won't be recycling that carton.

Or, how about caps on bottles of bleach or mouthwash, where you press down and turn, or press in on two barely discernable places on either side of the cap before you turn? I think perhaps they were designed to slow life down, or to splash bleach on your clothes.

But my least favorite, most aggravating packaging is the child-proof medicine bottle. Hey, I'm taking this stuff because I have arthritis in my hands. And I don't have a child handy to show me how it's done. If you have an excruciating headache or need nitro, forget it. The most successful way to open medications bottles that I've found is to put the bottle in your pocketbook and shake it around a little. Usually, all the pills will fall out, but then, of course, you have to fish out the rest of them and put them back in the bottle.

You know, I just hate to think of some anonymous person smirking while they package the goods I will buy. I know they enjoy sealing the end of my toilet tissue roll. And I can just imagine that evil laugh while someone's putting a tamper-proof seal on my bottle of Gas-X. They know full well I'll probably stab myself before I can relieve my heartburn.

But I'm not one to complain. It's just that my skin's so itchy because I couldn't figure how to get the pump working on my new bottle of body lotion.

## About Miracle Cures by Joan Ashley

It is so exciting! If you call certain toll-free numbers, you can purchase a cure for almost everything. Do your feet hurt? Does your back ache? Do you have to go to the bathroom at the most inopportune times? Is your hair dull and lifeless? Are your teeth stained? Do you have unsightly warts?

There are magazine ads or TV commercials about every ailment known to man. Any why would you pay a plastic surgeon to what magic formulas can do? I am sometimes tempted to try a product that can sure obesity, muscle aches, heartburn, nasal congestion, bladder weakness, toenail fungus, sexual dysfunction, and bad breath. But then there will be a warning: This product may cause blurred vision, dry mouth, nausea, constipation, abdominal pain, liver damage, headache, muscle weakness, high blood pressure, and probably death.

Some cures are not that dangerous. I tried putting a bar of soap under the sheet, but I forget why. I do know it's uncomfortable. I read that if you soak raisins in gin and eat nine of those gin-soaked raisins everyday, your arthritis will be cured, but I don't even care (hee-hee).

Now I have tried some beauty products. I bought some make-up called Rewind, but I had to use nail polish remover to get it off. I saw a product that was supposed to make your lips look full and puffy, but they did say there would be a tingling sensation. There are firming creams and fade creams and softening creams. There are highlighters and brighteners and tone-eveners and wrinkle removes. I plan to use all this stuff tonight. If these products each take off five to ten years, when I wake up in the morning I'll be three years old.

*Opening Session*

*Saturday, August 25, 2007 at 9:00 at Rowan Public Library*

**GREETERS**

Julia Patton, Chairman  
Carolyn Coble, Sue Dodd, Christine Barringer

**ATTENDANCE**

Carolyn Myers, Chairman  
Ollie McKnight, Lisa Schnuit, Shirley Dissler,  
Susan Waller

**HOSTESSES**

Jane Watson, Chairman  
Kelly Withers, Stella Isenberg, Shari Bivens,  
Jennifer Lentz, Ruby Steele

Chairs, please contact all of your committee members and make plans for our first session of the year!

*You are cordially invited to attend the opening meeting of the  
Epsilon Chapter of  
Delta Kappa Gamma to be held at the  
Rowan Public Library on  
Saturday August 25, 2007  
at 9:00 in the morning.*

We have planned to schedule all of this year's meetings at RPL. Because the library staff cannot do long term scheduling of rooms, we will announce the confirmation of our plans at the library in future newsletters.

If you have a suggestion for a great place to hold the installation in May, please let Gerrie or Adair know. We are looking for a suitable location that is equally central and accessible.

Please plan to attend our meetings and to participate actively in an organization that gives back to the teaching and learning community!

We miss you when you are not with us to celebrate this wonderful profession!

## 2007-2008 Epsilon Meeting Topics

Make Every Moment Count!

As Program Director, Vice President Adair Doran has worked diligently over the summer planning sessions for you! We hope that you will enjoy what she has planned and that you will be present with us as we learn from each other and our visiting speakers.

Date	Topic	Speaker
August 25	Book Talk	Adair Doran
October 25	Teacher Cadet Program	Lina Drinkard
January 10	ESOL Migrant Education	Lillian Morgan
March 6	Partners In Learning	To Be Announced

### ETA State Officers 2007-2009

President	Carman Redding
First vice-president	Betty Marshall
Second vice-president	Linda Little
Secretary	Helen Willard

RSS Back To School Calendar  
Teachers Workdays August 20-23  
Students Return to Classrooms August 27  
Teacher Workdays October 8 and 29  
Veterans Day November 12  
Thanksgiving November 21-23  
Christmas December 21-January 1



Have a  
safe continuation  
of Summer Break!  
We look forward to seeing you at all Delta  
Kappa Gamma Meetings!