

# Epsilon Chapter News

## The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

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



**Third Meeting:**  
**March 6 , 2008**  
**Rowan Public**  
**Library**

**Devotions:**  
Martha West

**Greeters:**  
Carolyn Hartung

**Attendance:**  
Joyce Caddell,  
Chair

**Hostess:**  
Dot Luther, Chair

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### A MESSAGE FROM EPSILON

## New Job Presents New Vantage Points...

by Gerie Blackwelder

I have a new job... I still spend a vast portion of my time with 16-18 year olds, but I see them and their efforts from a vastly different point of view. As a newly christened Curriculum Coach at Carson High, I have a rich opportunity to witness education practiced by professionals through a variety of disciplines, settings, and methods.

Surprisingly, I still have much to learn after 32 years of having my own classroom!

As a veteran classroom teacher with grey hairs and dimming "vision", I am awed by the creativity and

energy that young teachers bring to students in RSS and particularly to Carson kids.

As evidence of the mass of intelligence creatively shared, I heard the resonance of the Preamble of the Constitution ringing in hallways not so hallowed as those of Philadelphia, but equally passionate in striving for youthful constitutions under construction. I conjugated verbs on Power Point in Spanish class and saw the suffering of citizens in Darfur on student produced technology in social studies class.

Passionate teachers pepper their walls with learning so that students only have to

turn their little heads to see and grasp new ideas. Reminders of prior learning and quality accomplishments are displayed on walls and through fine pieces of student work produced in such classes as furniture building, art and, interestingly, calculus class.

To those in society who complain that students are forced to sit in "dumbed down" classes, or that kids are a bundle of trouble and can't behave well enough to learn, I send an invitation to sit in my ever changing seat and see the enormous processing of information available to the well mannered students in classrooms.

## New Officers to Be Elected—

### Please Be Present to Cast Your Vote!

As educators we know that allowing our students to develop voice is an important role of a learning facilitator. Everyone needs and wants a "voice" and officer elections are a perfect time to vocalize and seek necessary change to encourage participation and energy within our organization! The nominating committee, led by Dr. Bonita Bloodworth, was elected at the January 10 meeting at RPL and has been preparing a slate of officers to be voted into office at the next meeting (March 6- 3:30 to 5:00 at RPL). Please be ready to cast your much needed vote to support the slate developed by your peers. Those whose names are on the ballot will need your support.

**I THOUGHT I COULD, I THOUGHT I COULD..BY JOAN ASHLEY**

My husband and I were going to High Point to help take our grand-daughter to Western Carolina University. As usual, my husband led the charge and I followed in the other car.

The worst part for me was merging onto I-85. Do you now how many times you can pray the Lord's Prayer while you are merging? I peeled my fingers off the steering wheel and we were on our way.

When we got to High Point, I waved good-bye to Kermit, Laura, and Ashley as they went on up to WCU while I stayed with the teenager Collier and the four year old Keely.

I heard the dog snarling and could see the curtains being ripped from the windows. I was yelling, "Hold the dog! Hold the dog!" But the little one opened the door.

Suddenly I had big paws on my shoulders and a wet nose in my face. I said, "sit" and she did--- twenty-seven times.

The young one wanted to go out and play in the rain. But I convinced them we should eat first.

"What do you want to eat?" I asked. Collin said, "mom", which translates to "nothing that contains vegetables", which is hard because he is a vegetarian who doesn't like vegetables! Keely wanted "pink pineapple and biscuits".

Collin set up a cot for me. There were no pillows because the dog had chewed them up. Then, of course, the dog slept on my feet.

In the morning, it was freezing. And sure enough, there was a sign on the thermostat that said, "Do not touch this setting".

So, I grabbed a shawl to keep warm. And accidentally melted it on the stove burner. The kids said, "That's ok, Mom will think the dog did it anyway".

And, in making the biscuits I sprinkled chili powder on them instead of cinnamon.

Later, during the morning I heard a disembodied voice coming from the handset saying, "Pick up. Mom. Pick up, Mom. We are passing through Hickory. We have been to Western and are almost home."

Almost home.

**RED ROSES ARE A SIGN AND CELEBRATION OF A LIFE WELL LIVED**



Laughter is a magical invitation to friendship. Joan Ashley, Past President of Epsilon, possessed the charm of laughter and the knew delight of making constant new friends even as old friends held fast to

the rich experience of enjoying her company. When news of her illness reached former State President Dr. Gwenn Simons (1995-1987), she responded with constant encouragement and good wishes throughout

Joan's months of treatment. Friday, on a small alter table by her picture Joan had a dozen red roses bearing the simple message, "With love, Gwenn". The signature flowers, symbols of the

Delta Kappa Gamma Society International sisterhood, were a haunting reminder of a laughter that is stilled, but also of friendships that are framed with vibrancy and purpose.

Note cards, long awaited, poorly received, sadly still available—

Won't you please give a few note cards a good home? These not so charming representations of Epsilon Chapter, and The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International were devised as a fund raiser to fill the coffers of our chapter at a time when we believed our funds to have diminished. Now, however, Dr. Stiller reports that we are in the money again...admittedly a delightfully giddy feeling...but, we are stuck with a few cards that need to feel the splash of ink that bring life and wit to their existence.

Please be generous..surely you know someone who doesn't get out much, someone who doesn't know the distinction of Crane embossing on quality paper, someone who enjoys sending the best in tacky and who would appreciate the gift of a faded rose!

Go ahead, show off a little...let the dollars fly and make Epsilon a few pennies richer in scholarship funds! Or you might earmark your gift for a special purpose. Perhaps your donation could be specifically directed to purchase our new President a beverage upgrade at a convention dinner or, if you are really daring, you might ask your dollars to be joined with a friend's and used to purchase some stamps to defray our mailing costs.

**If you are interested in purchasing the note cards, which are blank inside, we have only a few sets of 6 note cards and 6 envelopes at a cost of \$12.00. Though these cards are, indeed, expensive, the full donation is received into our accounts. No Epsilon money is invested in the card design or printing costs.**

Adair seeks input concerning attendance and membership activities for the future

Ladies of Delta Kappa Gamma, we need you help!!! Over the past few years the membership in DKG International has dropped significantly and we need to find a way to stop the decline. Fortunately, we do not have that problem with our Epsilon Chapter, but we have had some loss as well as some people declining to join. Please help us brainstorm ways to improve our organization. What do you think we can do to make the membership more appealing to prospective nominees? In addition, what suggestions do you have to encourage attendance at our meetings? Do we want to try dinner meetings at a local restaurant or a lunch meeting on a Saturday? What type of program would you like us to have? Is there some topic you want to explore more thoroughly? Do you want us to branch out as an organization and actively tutor students or mentor new teachers? Is there some educational issue you want us to explore or take a leadership role in? Would you like to take part in a joint venture with some of the other women's organizations? For example, I know that there is a voter registration drive in the planning stages with some of these organizations. SO, let me know what your ideas are so we can make DKG-Epsilon the best chapter in North Carolina and an organization that women know about and want to join. Please call me (704 639-0362) or email me (doranag@rss.k12.nc.us or airdoran@yahoo.com with your ideas. Thanks for your ideas in advance. I can't wait to hear from you!!! Adair Doran, First Vice-President

## -Dates to Remember-



Epsilon Officer Elections  
Thursday, March 6, 2008  
Rowan Public Library  
Program Partners In Learning

New Officer Installation  
Saturday 9:30 a.m.  
May 3, 2009 -Location  
to be announced



**Scholarship Donations:** On Thursday at our meeting at RPL, we will pass the baskets for a love offering for Catherine Hall's daughter and for Joan Ashley to be remembered through Scholarship Donations. Please remember these active and committed members through scholarship memorials which help others.

**Mission Statement**

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

**MINUTES OF MEETING: JANUARY 10,  
2008**

**DELTA KAPPA GAMMA**

January 10, 2008  
Rowan Public Library

President Gerrie Blackwelder presided over the meeting, welcoming all those in attendance.

A loving tribute was given in memory of Alice Martin, a devoted Epsilon member since 1961. Catherine Hall shared evidence of the lifelong service and caring attitude displayed over the one hundred-six years of her life. Alice Martin was devoted to her family, friends, and her little dog, Mollie. She was truly an inspiration to those who knew her and will be greatly missed. Roses from this chapter's members will be sent to her memorial service.

Members report Mary Anna Faust has been spotted, playing the pipes in the High Point Presbyterian Home Band. She sends warm greetings to all Epsilon ladies.

Ruby Knox has been ill and expects to transfer to the Lutheran Home



2008 Eta State Convention April 25-27 in Hickory at the Holiday Inn Select.

An encouraging medical update was given on Joan Ashley. Members sent their well wishes to her, written on the day's agenda page.

Betsy Rich gave the treasury report. She anticipates the chapter will soon purchase a new CD in addition to the four already held. There is also scholarship money available to members. Dr. West made the motion to follow the state's lead in allowing a portion of this money to be awarded to members seeking initial and renewed National Board status. This motion was approved after some discussion. Members then discussed creating special scholarships to honor or memorialize Epsilon educators. It was decided that future contributions could be earmarked in this regard by donors and all contributions would remain together in one fund.

Virginia Booth was nominated for honorary membership in appreciation of her loyal mentoring and support of those who work with the chapter's treasury. This nomination was accepted. The chapter will contribute the \$50.00 membership fee to the state. Flo Peck, who was previously welcomed as an honorary member, was invited to sign the membership book.

Pat Whitley welcomed Dr. Rhonda Truitt of Catawba College. Dr. Truitt plans to transfer her membership to the Epsilon Chapter.

Members were reminded that note cards are still available for purchase at \$12.00.

Adair Doran introduced the afternoon's special guest, Lillian Morgan, leads the ESOL/Migrant program for students in Rowan County.

She reports that the migrant population has decreased dramatically in recent years in our area because immigrants are establishing permanent residence here. Knollwood Elementary is the local school supporting the largest ESOL population. There are currently twenty-nine full-time ESOL teachers serving thirty-four schools. Mrs. Morgan emphasized the impact of this population on No Child Left Behind and the needed changes in our legislature to adequately address this impact.

The meeting was then adjourned until March 6, 2008.

Invite Membership Explosion  
Support New Teachers  
Promote Wise, Passionate Living  
Expand Internationally

**Barbara Day's  
Leadership  
Initiatives**

Promote Arts, Women Artists  
Craft Research Based Legislative  
Hire PR Firm to Define Image,  
Create Society Brand  
Move into Electronic Age Through Publications

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## Literacy Council Seeks Support for Scrabble Tournament

*Just yesterday I got a reminder that Joan was in progress with a series of musings when her health declined. Her words are always charming and uplifting, as funny as the little lady herself. This time was no exception. Her final communication expressed a desire for Epsilon to participate in the Literacy Council project to raise awareness and funds for giving local adults the gift of literacy.*

*The event which will be held at 5:30 April 22 at the Holiday Inn will cost \$25.00 per team member for participation. The fee includes game paraphernalia as well as a buffet, snacks, and door prizes.*

*Joan, a big supporter of education of all kinds had an even more focused approach to the Literacy Scrabble*

*than would be expected by someone who was an avid supporter of reading and writing. Joan really wanted to be on a winning team...and to beat the sophisticated and articulate Salisbury Post team. She even made snide accusations against the Post team, suggesting that they use crib sheets and play to win with an unbridled vigor.*

*Whether her observations about competitors is true or merely the high spirited repartee of a woman driven by the sweet scent of victory, be honored that she wanted you, the collective genius of Epsilon on her team as she went up against the highly polished and well prepared Post writers and editors.*

*If Epsilon members would like to form a team, please speak out at the February meeting and we can make plans to WIN!*

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## Scholarship Recipient to be Honored at Epsilon Meeting at RPL

We are pleased to be one of the few chapters in North Carolina to hold our own scholarship funds and to insure that the Epsilon members are financially supported in continuing education endeavors. At the February meeting, Christine Barringer will be honored as the first scholarship recipient to receive funds for The National Board for Professional Standards renewal certification. The designation of NBPTS is awarded for 10 years and Christine is Pursuing renewal of her license which will expire in November 2009.

The process which includes "one portfolio entry, the Profile of Professional Growth, which allows you to demonstrate the connections you make between your continued professional growth and student learning. The entry consists of three components and a reflection. For component one, you will complete and submit a set of activities based on the current standards for your field. Component two requires that you submit a video in which you demonstrate preK-12 classroom teaching in the same content and developmental level as your original certification. In component three, you may either submit a video or learner work that demonstrates participant interaction. In the reflection submission, you reflect on the first three components" ("Certification Renewal." [The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards](#), 1 2007. 18 Feb. 2008).

We congratulate Christine for her work in the classroom and for her desire to maintain a level of certification that is respected in education circles and has proven results with learners. Susan Waller, Chair of the Scholarship and World Fellowship Committee, will present the award.