



**Theta State, New Mexico News**  
**of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International**  
 Winter 2021



**MESSAGE FROM OUR**  
**2019-2021 STATE PRESIDENT**



**Greeting NM Sisters!**

In the spring of 2019, we attended our State Convention in Hobbs. We shared in fellowship, professional development, and sisterhood. I began my

biennium with the theme, “Forward Moving Ever”. Little did I know how true to ALL of our lives those three little words would be. In the past year, our worlds have changed so much. You have stood by me through the hardest time in MY life with the passing of my mom in January of 2020. In March, many of us in the classroom were sent home for what we thought was an extended spring break. There are MANY of us who have not been back since that time.

Our state has been “Forward Moving Ever”, shifting our learning and meetings into the virtual world. I believe that this year of staying home, working together through the computer, and collaborating virtually to conduct state business is only going to strengthen our bond when we are able to meet again in person. This time in history has given us the opportunity to prioritize what is most important in our lives. And DKG New Mexico is THAT important!

Our Nominations Committee has been hard at work, putting together a slate of officers who are ready to take DKG New Mexico to new levels and to continue to support you across the state. Our Bylaws Committee has been tasked with making sure that our Bylaws and Standing Rules include wording to support our virtual meetings and elections.

Our NW area chapters put in so much work on last year's State Convention and due to the timing of the pandemic, we missed out on all of their hard work. Our Albuquerque Chapters put on an AMAZING Fall Meeting Event, all done virtually! Our Roswell chapter have put in much time and energy to bring to you our 2021 State Convention. We were so hopeful that we would finally be able to meet in person, but that just was not the case. I hope that you will encourage your chapters to join us virtually in April. The schedule of events is included in this newsletter and there is something for everyone! We have amazing things taking place in this year’s State Convention and I would be thrilled to have record breaking attendance from all over the state!

I want to thank each of you for the love you pour into DKG New Mexico, into your friendships and into your classrooms. I want to, especially, thank our State Officers and Executive Board. I cannot imagine a better group to have spent these last 2 years with! I am honored to have been able to serve as your President for the past 2 years and I look forward to what the future has to offer for us all.

***Shawna Denney,***  
**Theta State President, 2019-2021**



# THETA STATE NOMINATIONS

The Theta State nominating committee has named the following for the 2021-2023 biennium:

TS President:	Pat Graff
TS First Vice-President:	Joe Anne Clarkson
TS Second Vice-President:	Barbara Shirrod
TS Recording Secretary:	Mignon Simitz
TS Corresponding Secretary:	Jane Williams
Central Region Finance Committee:	Mary Fugate
SW Region Finance Committee:	Susan Swope
SE Region Nominations Committee:	Terri Garvey
SW Region Nominations Committee:	Vacant

## Pat Graff



Pat Graff is a National Board Certified Teacher and a member of DKG for 22 years. She graduated from Oklahoma State University's College of Ed. which recently named her to their Alumni

Hall of Fame. She taught in APS for 38 years, starting at Cleveland Middle School and then moving to La Cueva High School when it opened in 1986.

During her teaching career, Ms. Graff received over one hundred awards, grants, and recognitions. She was New Mexico's Teacher of the Year in 1993 and one of four finalists for the national honor. Pat received the Milken Educator Award in 1994, was named the National High School Journalism Teacher of the Year in 1996 and was Disney's English Teacher of the Year in 1998. In 2006, she was named the first New Mexican to be inducted into the National Teachers Hall of Fame.

She is currently Theta State's first vice-president and served two biennia as Gamma's chapter president. As Theta State's 2<sup>nd</sup> vice-president, she chaired the state's membership initiative. Recently she was appointed the SW Region's representative to the DKG International Education Excellence Committee. Pat now works with teachers in northern New Mexico who are working on National Board certification. Pat and her husband Mark live in ABQ. She has two sons and has seven grandchildren with whom she travels frequently. Pat's daughter-in-law, Fateesha Graff, is a nursing educator and also a member of Gamma chapter.

## Joe Anne Clarkson



Joe Clarkson taught 7<sup>th</sup> grade ELA in Hobbs Schools for 25 years and has been the assistant principal at Murray Elementary for 4 ½ years. She joined Delta Kappa Gamma in 2008 and has served as treasurer, vice president, and president of her

chapter, Alpha Lambda. At the state level she was the chair of the personal growth committee, the state secretary, and then second vice president. She has attended two regional conferences, one international conference and two international conventions at which she participated in workshops and the choirs. She is member of Taylor Memorial Baptist Church where she sings in the choir (when covid doesn't interfere), is a member of the praise team, and is the interim director of her Sunday School class.

## Barbara Shirrod

Barbara Shirrod grew up in Toledo, Ohio where she began her teaching career. Ms. Shirrod attended the University of Toledo where she earned both a Bachelor of Education and a Masters of Education degree. Barbara taught both first and second grade in the Toledo Public Schools as well as spending a year as a Reading Specialist, all in inner-city schools.



After marrying her husband Terry, she moved to the Los Angeles, California area and began teaching in very different environments all in private schools. Barbara first taught a second/third combination class for one year before moving on to a sixth-grade classroom which she found to be very stimulating.

With her husband and young daughter, she moved to Albuquerque in 1982, where she was a stay-at-home mom for a few years. When she returned to teaching after her second daughter began school, Barbara began a 25-year career at Manzano Day School where she and taught mathematics with the fifth-grade team for the remainder of her teaching career.

Barbara has been a member of Alpha Iota Chapter since 2016. She has served as the chapter's president since 2018 and as Theta State Corresponding Secretary since 2019.

### **Mignon Simitz**

Mignon Simitz was raised in Minnesota and Illinois, beginning her college studies in England through the University of Evansville, Evansville, Indiana, before transferring to New Mexico where she earned degrees at the University of New Mexico and New Mexico Highlands University. She worked in leadership positions developing curriculum and assessments, presenting in-service training for teachers, and mentoring teachers both as a supervisor of student teachers and as a mentor for fellow teachers. After 40 years of teaching in the public schools of New Mexico, Mignon retired in 2017. Since then, she has been substituting in public and private schools. Mignon is involved with her church, serving at mass, teaching youth religion classes, taking religion classes, and training teachers of religion classes. Her most recent volunteer position is serving as a member of the Board of Trustees for All Saints Catholic School. She has served as her chapter recording secretary and is currently starting her second biennium serving as President of Alpha Theta. Mignon has served as Chair of the Personal Growth and Services Committee and currently serves as Chair of the Professional Affairs Committee for DKG New Mexico. She is also a member of the Ad Hoc Committee for state conventions with DKG New Mexico. Mignon has been married to her husband, John, since 1977 and they were blessed to raise three children. She is looking forward to grandchildren!!!



### **Jane Williams**

Jane Williams was invited to join Psi Chapter of Theta State of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International in 1991. Ms. Williams has served on many Psi Chapter committees and has been chapter recording secretary, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president, and chapter president. She chaired three Theta State committees, has attended many fall executive board meetings and state conventions. These experiences in DKG and others at her church have helped prepare her to complete the tasks of TS Corresponding Secretary.



Ms. Williams moved to Grants in 1984 with her University of Northern Colorado BS degree in elementary education to begin her 37 years as an educator. In 2004 she received her Masters from UNM Gallup in Multicultural Education.

Jane actively pursues her relationships with Christ, her husband, friends, community and pets with her time and skills. She feels truly blessed when she can help people. She also quilts occasionally. Jane is honored to be considered for the Theta State Corresponding Secretary's position

### **Mary Fugate**

Mary Fugate was initiated in Gamma Chapter of Theta State of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International in 2016. She served as recording secretary. She is currently serving as corresponding secretary for Gamma Chapter. Ms. Fugate was the Treasurer for the Land of Enchantment Book Award Committee for the New Mexico School Librarians. She continues as a member of the New Mexico Library Association and the National Business Education Association.



The Fugate family moved to Grants, New Mexico, in 1984, so she could take a position teaching Vocational Business Education at Grants High School. Ms. Fugate became the sponsor for the student organization Office Education Association and hosted regional competition her first year of teaching. After many years helping students to compete in OEA, she became sponsor for other student organizations: Future Business Leaders of America, Technology Student Association, National Honor Society, and GHS Anchors Club. Ms. Fugate worked with Cub Scouts, 4H, and a student church group. Her many years working with the youth in Grants have provided much satisfaction.

While completing a Master's in Library and Information Science, Ms. Fugate became a school librarian. She worked with many fund-raising and budgeting events throughout her years in education. She is happy she can be of assistance to Theta State on the Finance Committee.



## Susan Swope

Education: 1994 BS in Agriculture Ed. from NMSU  
1997 Masters Agriculture Ed. from NMSU  
Licensed: Agriculture, Language Arts, Science and TESOL  
Teaching Experience: Deming PS MS Science & Agriculture 24 yrs.  
Las Cruces PS Science, Agriculture and Creative Writing 2 yrs.  
Additional duties: FFA Advisor, Science Fair Sponsor, National Jr. Honor Society Sponsor and 4-H Leader  
Honors: \*National Association of Agriculture Educators Agri science teacher of the year  
\*New Mexico Agriculture Teacher Association District 6 teacher of the year  
\*Golden Apple MS Teacher Finalist  
\*Nominated Disney teacher of the year  
Currently: Retired and working at Tharp's Flowers in Deming  
Family: Married for 26 yrs. Two daughters: Stephanie Moon who is the Agriculture teacher at Alamogordo HS. Stacy is going to graduate in May from NMSU in Agriculture



James, Stacy, Susie and Stephanie Swope

Communications and engaged to be married in August.

DKG: Currently- Chapter President of Epsilon in Silver City, Member of Omega in Las Cruces, TS Leadership Committee Chair, and TS SW Region Finance Committee Nominee

Previously- Served as Theta State President, three terms as Pi Chapter President in Deming.

Served in Vice President Offices, secretary offices and numerous committees at Theta State and Pi Chapter levels

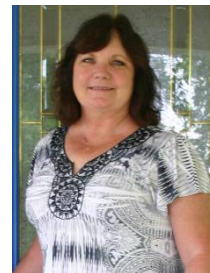
Honors: Golden Gift Attendee, Theta State Achievement Award recipient, numerous merit awards and chapter awards.

Free time: Archery and growing plants

## Terri Garvey

Teresa (Terri) L. Garvey, the eldest daughter of Kenneth and Betty Gross, was born in Emporia, Kansas on January 10 and came to Roswell when her father was stationed at Walker Air Force Base.

Terri was raised in Roswell, NM and graduated with honors from Roswell High School. She married Robert J. Garvey III on December 30, 1978, then went on to obtain her Bachelor of Business Administration from New Mexico State University in May of 1982. On October 4, 1983, a son, Robert J. Garvey IV, was born to the happy couple. B.J., as he is called, now resides in Kansas City, Missouri. After her husband's tragic death in 1985, she returned to earn her Master's in Business Administration in December of 1988. Since then, Terri has obtained her high school certification, National Board Certification, with recent renewal, plus 76+ hours in coursework. Terri has a strong interest in finding ways to enhance her classes through the use of projects, technology and activities, believing that as an educator she must continue to stay abreast of current trends to enhance her teaching as teaching methods and students have changed. Terri has served as Business Department Chair, 2000, Leadership Chair, 2016 and Technology Liaison for numerous years. She embraces change and views it as a challenge to improve herself and her teaching. Terri takes special interest in the students in her care.



In addition to NMML, Terri is very active with her church, loves spending time with family, and has pursued her business interests through being a Mary Kay Beauty Consultant.

## **Summary of Academic Accomplishments & Record of Service**

Since her hire date in 1989, she has been very active in supporting NMML through various faculty committees (North Central Self-Study, Senate Committees, Faculty Senate Chair, Accreditation Committee, Strategic Planning Co-Chair, Criterion 2 Co-Chair), voluntary committees (Technology Liaison, Webpage, Academic Advisor, Cadet Activities - Close-Up, Youth and Government, Spirit Squad, SCUBA, Troop Mentor as well as the New Mexico Two-year/Four-year Business Consortium), and attending various Conferences and Associations (related to both technology and business). In addition, Terri has earned approximately 78+ hours above her master's, received National Board Certification in 2010 and renewal in 2019. She is active in Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. She has served as Alpha Theta Vice President, President, Parliamentarian as well as serving the TS on the Technology Committee and as Web Master. She is also an active member of the Sunrise Optimist Club of Roswell where she has served as a Director and current President. She recently was asked to serve on the Steering Committee to write the 2030 Strategic Plan for NMML.

# STATE CONVENTION PLANNING AD HOC COMMITTEE

## Ad Hoc Committee on State Conventions Completes Work

Meeting virtually, the Theta State DKG Ad Hoc committee on state conventions and meetings has made recommendations for further action, referring its ideas to the Theta State NM Bylaws Committee.

The group has presented a proposal that would establish a statewide convention planning committee that would provide additional support and help for local chapters.

The committee, in conjunction with the Bylaws Committee and Theta State officers, will work on proposed changes to Theta State standing rules, and bylaws for an official vote this spring at the state convention.



## EDUCATOR RECOGNITION AWARD

Chapters are invited to nominate 2 outstanding women educators to receive the Educator Recognition Award at the State Convention. Only 1 may be a member, since we already know that our members are outstanding. The website has a chapter information letter, a letter to use to inform the awardee, and the nomination form to send to the committee. If a member is one of the awardees, the chapter may consider paying her convention registration fee. Non-members registration is complimentary. Both need to send a Convention registration form, as well.

Please send the nomination form, photo, bio, and convention registration form to Diana Valdez at [valdezd8844@gmail.com](mailto:valdezd8844@gmail.com) by April 1, 2021.



Past Theta State President Sheri Williams presents Alpha Lambda chapter president Lissa Crombie with her Educator Recognition Award.

←-←←←←

Alpha Lambda Chapter President Lissa Crombie presents Esther Bratcher with her Educator Recognition Award. →→→→→



Penelope Buchardt, Gamma Chapter nominee

***Congratulations to all of the 2020 Awardees!***

## WORLD FELLOWSHIP

Since there was no Fall Birthday Luncheon in November, in lieu of the 'PASS THE BASKET', chapters were asked to collect in their chapters and send a check to Yvette Moore by March 15, 2021. This will be the only way that Theta State is credited with supporting the International World Fellowship Fund as we have in previous years.

*Thank you for the support of women educators worldwide through this grant-in-aid.*

World Fellowship Committee

## ***B. JUNE WEST RECRUITMENT GRANT***

Do you know a woman pursuing a degree in education? **March 1<sup>st</sup>** is the deadline for The B. June West Recruitment Grant! The applicant must be a graduating high school senior who will be going into education, a college student in education, or a teacher needing educational assistance. Please see the link below and email the application, along with a copy of the latest high school or college transcript to Mignon Simitz at [migaitz@gmail.com](mailto:migaitz@gmail.com). Please also have the three letters of recommendation sent directly from the person giving the reference to [migaitz@gmail.com](mailto:migaitz@gmail.com).

<http://deltakappaagamma.org/NM/BJuneWestApp.pdf>

## ***TS SCHOLARSHIP***

### **THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL THETA STATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 2021**

- **Theta State Scholarship(s)** available to be awarded: up to \$2,000
- **\*Not all scholarships will be awarded each year; decisions to award or not will be made based on availability of funding and/or the number of qualified applicants**
  - Eligibility:
    - Applicants must be members of a Theta State Chapter for at least **3** calendar years.
    - Service to Delta Kappa Gamma is an important criterion in the selection of a recipient.
    - Applications should be electronically submitted on/before the deadline (March 15<sup>st</sup> of the year awarded) **Incomplete or late applications will not be eligible for consideration.**
- **Theta State Scholarship Application Packet Requirements**
  - Electronically submit one complete application packet (items a-e below) to Kelly Raye Williams, Scholarship Chairman at [kraye22@comcast.net](mailto:kraye22@comcast.net)
    - the completed application form;
    - an original photograph (applicant only) suitable for publication;
    - a brief written account (use template provided) of your proposed program plans with documentation of current enrollment (This account should include institution, major, degree, beginning date, anticipated completion date, a brief description of courses completed, and the professional goals to be accomplished through this program. Current enrollment can be documented through a screenshot or a copy of the applicant's graduate school registration page showing name and present course enrollment);
    - an accounting of your service to Delta Kappa Gamma, as detailed on the application. (This should include offices and committee appointments at the chapter, state, and international levels; attendance at Delta Kappa Gamma conferences and conventions; participation in training sessions and legislative and/or leadership seminars; and other services rendered to Delta Kappa Gamma. Please include dates of service or participation.); and
    - The name, phone and e-mail contact information of 3 references defined below. You may include signed letters of reference with your application packet. (Signed letters are not required.)
      - the current **president** of your chapter (or another officer if you are the president),
      - a direct supervisor/administrator of your **professional** work, and
      - a university or college professor familiar with your **graduate level** work.
    - One copy of each transcript of the applicant's undergraduate and graduate records to be sent by to the Theta State Scholarship Chair at [kraye22@comcast.net](mailto:kraye22@comcast.net) Include transcripts for all institutions you list on the application. Transcripts **MUST** arrive to the Theta State Scholarship Chair on or before March 15. Late submissions will result in applications NOT being considered.
  - **Due Date: All applications must be complete electronically submitted ON or BEFORE March 15.**

**THETA STATE OF THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY  
INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

*Please Print or Type*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTH DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (Middle/Maiden) (Last)

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street and Number) (City) (Zip)

DELTA KAPPA GAMMA CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_ INITIATION \_\_\_\_\_  
(Month and Year)

TELEPHONE: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

PRESENT POSITION:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Place of Employment) (Number of Years) (Grade/Subject/Area)

EDUCATIONAL CREDENTIALS:

COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY \_\_\_\_\_ DEGREE EARNED \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR \_\_\_\_\_

THIS APPLICATION IS FOR THE \_\_\_\_\_  
(DEGREE) \_\_\_\_\_ DOSSIER OR NATION BOARD

HAVE YOU APPLIED FOR AN INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP THIS YEAR? \_\_\_\_\_

HAVE YOU RECEIVED AN INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PRIOR TO THIS YEAR? \_\_\_\_\_

HAVE YOU RECEIVED A TN STATE SCHOLARSHIP PRIOR TO THIS YEAR? \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT YEAR? \_\_\_\_\_

*Carefully follow all directions/requirements listed on the preceding information page. All required components transcripts must be included as an application packet when it is electronically submitted. ALL components must be electronically submitted and/or postmarked ON or BEFORE March 15<sup>th</sup> for the application to be eligible for consideration.*

Send application materials to: Kelly Raye Williams, Scholarship Chair [kraye22@comcast.net](mailto:kraye22@comcast.net)

**PROGRAM PLAN**

**COURSEWORK COMPLETED** (list courses completed thus far in your program)

**CURRENT COURSEWORK** (copy and paste or attach proof of current enrollment including name of course(s), number of credit hours, and dates for the semester)

**COMPLETION OF PROGRAM** (list the remaining courses needed to complete your program including anticipated dates of enrollment, i.e. semester and year)

**DEGREE TO BE AWARDED (PROJECTED) DATE:**

**DESCRIBE YOUR PLANS FOR USING YOUR DEGREE** (200 words or less)



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS  
**DELTA KAPPA GAMMA™**

## ***EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE***

### **Keeping the Education Excellence Focus in Local Chapters Virtually**

*Here are a few more ideas for members and chapters to try during these continuing quarantine times, based on our Education Excellence Committee guidelines:*

**Charades:** During a meeting, send a private message to one member of a movie title or book title or song title and have that individual act out the title while the rest of the chapter guesses. For extra fun, have a few prizes that can be mailed after the meeting!

**Five Second Rule:** Each attendee has five seconds to name at least three things in a specific category. Example categories might be ice cream, vacation spots, favorite NM things, clothing, Italian food, soft drinks, DKG activities.

**Match Game Photo Style:** Before your meeting ask each attendee to send you a photo (it can be scanned or taken with a cell phone) of her as a baby or toddler. Then, create a slide show and share it with members, asking them to guess which photo belongs to which member.

These ideas come from a list of ways to make virtual meetings more entertaining and engaging. The list was developed from DKG International and the Educational Excellence Committee and is posted on the Theta State website for chapters to use. The website is [www.thetastatenmdkg@weebly.com](http://www.thetastatenmdkg@weebly.com) .

Submitted by Pat Graff, NBCT  
EEC Member, Southwest Region

## ***DKG INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES***

### **DKG International is Hosting Two Conferences in Summer 2021 for members:**

July 7-10, 2021, in Portland, Oregon and  
July 21-24, 2021, in San Antonio, Texas

Decisions are being considered in the next few months as to whether these events will be virtual or hybrid.

***More information soon.***



# CHAPTER NEWS

## GAMMA

### Gamma Chapter Stays Active

Gamma Chapter in Albuquerque has had two successful programs in recent months, all still virtual but fun and educational.

In December, the group sorely missed its holiday brunch event, which had to be held virtually instead of being face-to-face. However, several Gamma members delivered small bags of goodies to each member, including festive crocheted ornaments, cookies, and a cute reindeer paddle for bidding in the group's auction for the chapter's scholarship fund.



Led by Chapter President **Katy Hammel**, who might have a new career in auctioneering, the group bid on over 20 different items donated by chapter members. In the end, over \$400 was raised by the auction, almost double what is normally raised!

In January, the chapter enjoyed a wonderful presentation about journal writing done by Gamma Chapter members **Amy Reece** and **Cat Reece**, a mother-daughter pair who also team-teach at Nex-Gen Academy. Lots of ideas about thinking creatively and helping one getting more organized using journal writing were shared. This presentation continued the chapter's theme this year of wellness and self-care.

### Gamma Chapter Inducts New Honorary Member

Congratulations to Gamma's newest member, Honorary Member **Mary Stuever!** Mary was elected to honorary membership by the chapter for her many contributions to forestry education and various Gamma and Theta State programs and workshops.

Mary was inducted virtually during Gamma's December meeting. She lives in Tierra Amarilla and is the District Forest Ranger for NM State Forestry in the Chama area. She has written several books and created and implemented the NM Forestry Camp for teens wanting to learn more about forestry. She has also developed lessons in forestry that are used annually by Philmont Scout Ranch and helps advise Philmont on reforestation projects following the devastating Ute Park fire in 2018.



## ALPHA THETA

Alpha Theta Chapter started 2021 working together to support the community. In lieu of the normal snacks and supplies due to the pandemic, the chapter made a donation to the local Assurance Home to help support their plans for a tubing trip in nearby Ruidoso. Additionally, sisters made donations to our local Harvest Ministries which provides food and resources to local citizens. The chapter also recently started looking for women pursuing a degree in education to apply for the B. June West Recruitment Grant and the local chapter scholarship.

We look forward to our next zoom meeting including valentine crafts and candies! Tammy Roe puts supplies together and sisters volunteer to deliver these to everyone in our chapter which increases participation in meetings.

But, the big news around Alpha Theta is the planning and preparation for the Theta State Convention in April!! The chapter has been busy preparing breakout sessions, speakers, favors, door prizes, and a fun luncheon. For a special invitation, please view this video: <https://youtu.be/N1XMxl0Z4MI> Alpha Theta believes this will be a wonderful, celebratory time together as sisters to share professional and personal growth information to benefit women educators in all stages of their career and life. We are looking forward to seeing as many sisters who can join via Zoom that weekend. Look for the registration form to let Alpha Theta know if you are joining!

**WE BELIEVE IN YOU!**

## ALPHA IOTA



“If you were a vegetable, what would you be?” That was the question with which Alpha Iota president Barbara Shirrod opened the January meeting. The answers were intriguing; “pineapple, ‘cause I’m feeling prickly today!” “a chili, ‘cause I am spicy!” “zucchini ‘cause I am versatile!” Think about it. What would you be?

As our guest speaker for this meeting, Russell Goff, Executive Director of the NMAER, updated us on upcoming issues for the state legislature. He gave details of topics to be discussed/decided regarding Educational Retirement, including contributions, healthcare, how to contact legislators, etc.

Alpha Iota also discussed information about registering for and scheduling COVID vaccinations.

Plans for February’s meeting included a talk on racial issues in education, given by Tony Watkins, of *Families United for Education*. Tony is also a trainer/organizer with the *People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond*. Other Albuquerque chapter members were invited to join this ZOOM meeting.

In each meeting we touch base with our members who are actively teaching and ask them to share their experiences (joys and challenges!) teaching online/hybrid and in person.

Alpha Iota is continuing to explore additional avenues of communication both among the members and with the general public. Stay tuned for information about our new website, created and maintained by Audrey Colwell!  
*Submitted by Donna Moore*

## OMEGA

### CREATIVITY GALORE!

The Omega executive committee (Barbara Jewett, Sharon Sevachco, and Alice Morris-Jones) planned an extraordinary ZOOM holiday celebration for our members.

Sisters were asked to wrap one gift for giving and to take one gift as Sharon made the multiple rounds for the exchange. Gifts were to remain unopened until party time. Also included in the face to face exchanges were goody bags of secret treasures for all.

Monday, December 14th - Nineteen expectant faces appeared via computer ready for the party to unfold. Sharon led the members in a ribbon poinsettia craft using supplies from the goody bags. Alice conducted the group in singing Christmas carols while Barbara later directed sisters to open their exchange gifts as names were called individually.

Cheryl Carreon introduced Sophie, her beautiful daughter with an equally beautiful voice, who sang two songs to the delight of attendees.

Omega was involved in a food collection for the local Food Pantry. Also members joined with fervor in a raffle for prizes to garner \$500 for our Scholarship Fund.

Sharron Stepro for Omega Chapter

## PSI

### CHAPTER INDUCTION

PSI Chapter is excited to induct Leann Emerson as a new member of PSI/Grants DKG on February 13th. Leann is a caring and successful kindergarten teacher since 2006 with the Grants/Cibola County Schools. Pictured are Debbie Hicks on the left presenting Leann a DKG rose during her invitation.




## RED ROSES



Congratulations to Psi Chapter, **Marlene Toivanen** on her new position as Vice President for Academic Affairs/Associate Campus Director at the NMSU Grants Campus!



 Gamma member **Fateesha Graff** has become a yoga instructor! She currently teaches an online class called “Rise & Align Yoga Hour” every other Saturday, 8-9 a.m. She has been studying for a few years to become an instructor, so congratulations on her new professional accomplishment! Members interested in taking the class, which is being taught virtually, should contact Fateesha at [efes828@outlook.com](mailto:efes828@outlook.com).



Gamma member **Pat Graff** continues to work with National Board candidates around the state, and scores were recently released. This November seven of Pat’s candidates became National Board Certified Teachers, including teachers in Farmington, Santa Fe, Espanola, Albuquerque, and the FIRST NBCT in Chama! In addition, Pat helped a teacher in Albuquerque successfully complete his renewal. Currently Pat is working with about 50 teachers, mostly in northern New Mexico, plus teachers in Hobbs, Belen, and



Albuquerque.

# THETA STATE NEW MEXICO SPRING CONVENTION SCHEDULE AND DESCRIPTION OF EVENTS

**Friday, April 23 and Saturday April 24**

*These activities will be offered virtually. Please send in your registration to receive an invitation to join on Zoom.  
There will be separate invitations for Friday and Saturday.  
The Saturday invitation will apply to all events that day.*

**Friday, April 23**

**6:00 p.m. Executive Board Meeting**

**Saturday, April 24**

**8:00 a.m.- General Session**

**10:00 a.m.- Necrology Service**

**10:45 a.m.- Session 1**

**Autism panel**

**Title: Navigating the World of Autism**

**Presenters:** Kelley Alsup, Executive Director of the Pecos Valley Regional Education Center (PVREC) has served 23 years in Public Education in the field of Special Education as a Diagnostician, Special Education Specialist and administrator.

**Katelyn Gray**, School Psychologist at PVREC8, has a great deal of experience with students with Autism and is well-versed in student behaviors in the school setting.

**Tamara Jones**, Roswell Independent School District teacher and parent of 8<sup>th</sup> grader, Grayson, who is on the Autism spectrum. She brings experience from classroom and home environment backgrounds.

**Description:** We are happy to provide a general overview of Autism in the school setting, including the evaluation process and program implementation for students with Autism, as well as the home environment.

**11:45 a.m. – Session 2**

**Treasurer's Training**

**Title: Managing Membership**

**Presenter:** Theta State NM Treasurer Yvette Moore

**Description:**

Managing Membership - "Somebody has to do it" - and that "Somebody" is the Chapter Treasurer. We will focus on managing our members in this Zoom extravaganza. Join Yvette Moore, Theta State NM treasurer, for an informative, interactive workshop

**12:30 p.m. Theta State Luncheon/Awards**

**THETA STATE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD,  
LONGEVITY and MERIT AWARDS**

**2021 SCHOLARSHIP & B. JUNE WEST RECRUITMENT GRANT  
INSTALLATION OF THETA STATE NM 2021-2023 STATE OFFICERS**

**GUEST SPEAKER: INTERNATIONAL REP. SW REGIONAL DIRECTOR JANIS BARR**

**2:45 p.m.**

**Title: Chapter Leader Roundtable:**

**Sharing What Works for Chapters in Our Virtual World**

**Presenters:** Shawna Denney, Pat Graff, NBCT, and Joe Clarkson, NBCT

**Description:** All chapter leaders (and potential leaders) are encouraged to attend this roundtable discussion about our successes and challenges leading our local chapters in this new, virtual world we continue to face. We talk about membership, program, and organizational tips and ideas during this 45-minute session.



**INTERNATIONAL GUEST:**

**Southwest Regional Director**

**Janis Barr**

California



**For a special convention invitation to share with your chapter please view this video:**



**THETA STATE, NM VIRTUAL SPRING CONVENTION**



**REGISTRATION FORM**

**Friday, April 23, 2021  
Saturday, April 24, 2021**



**JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL DAY OF GATHERING, VISITING, TRAINING AND  
TAKING CARE OF STATE BUSINESS**

**RESERVATION DEADLINE** – Wednesday, April 14. Send registration form and payment to Patty Evans at 3016 Barcelona Drive, Roswell, NM 88201. Make the check payable to Theta State NM.

**COST: \$20** (Inclusive for Friday and Saturday)

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Chapter:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Chapter Office:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_ **TS Position:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\* A personal working e-mail address is required on the registration form in order to send a ZOOM log on invitation. Confirmation of registration will be sent via email by April 19, 2021. If you do not receive confirmation by this date contact Patty Evans at 575-627-6920 or email her at [peppermintnm@q.com](mailto:peppermintnm@q.com).

**ALL ACTIVITIES WILL BE PRESENTED ON LINE.**

**Friday evening:** 6:00 p.m. Executive Board Meeting

**Saturday morning:**

**8:00 a.m.** General Session

**10:00 a.m.** Necrology Service

*Workshops* (See Schedule and Descriptions)

**10:45 – 11:30** “Navigating the World of Autism – Panel Discussion with Q &A

**11:45 – 12:30** “Managing Membership” - Treasurer’s workshop

**Saturday Lunchtime:** 12:30 – 2:30

- Awards Celebration
- Installation of 2021-2023 Theta State Officers
- International Representative Presentation – Janis Barr, Southwest Regional Director



**Saturday afternoon:** 2:45 p.m.

- “Sharing What Works for Chapters in Our Virtual World” - Chapter Leader Roundtable

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Your attendance at this meeting gives permission for use of your photo/name in Theta State Newsletter Theta State Website and any Delta Kappa Gamma publication.

\_\_\_\_\_Initial if you understand this agreement. It is your responsibility to remove yourself from photographs.

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