

Theta State News

The Delta Kappa Gamma International Society for Key Women Educators in New Mexico

Gwen Hamilton (Alpha Theta) Receives TS Achievement Award

The Theta State achievement award is the highest award
Theta State confers on one of its members who has rendered outstanding service in fulfilling the seven purposes of The Delta

Kappa Gamma Society International.

This year, **Gwen Hamilton**, Alpha
Theta chapter in
Roswell, NM, received
the award. **Pat Burnett** wrote, "**Gwen Hamilton** exudes

energy, loyalty, and faithfulness from every pore. She willingly takes roles of leadership both big and small; and the spotlight is never a requirement".

Gwen was initiated into Alpha chapter (Roswell) in 2004. She was the chapter treasurer during the merger of Alpha and Alpha Theta chapters. She has served in most chapter positions and

many state positions, including first-vice president and chairman of the nominations committee.

Gwen retired from teaching 2nd and 3rd grades and returned to Roswell Independent School

District to substitute teach. "As an educator, she pursued the excellence to be found in her students and set high goals for their learning. She worked tirelessly with her faculty in many capacities

beyond her role as an educator," wrote **Pat Burnett**.

Enthusiasm is the key to **Gwen's** life. Every task she accomplishes is done with marvelous enthusiasm, and that enthusiasm is contagious. At Theta State Leadership, she is the first to volunteer to participate in activities. She is a cheerleader for her sisters.



Her enthusiasm is not limited to her work with First Baptist Church, Roswell, Awanas Children's program, the local assistance league in Roswell, but also in her shopping. **Gwen** loves shoes, and she is generous in sharing them.

New Mesico is fortunate to have such an amazing sister. We honor **Gwen** as she honors us with her service to Theta State!

Emergency Fund

• he pursued

to be found in

their learning.

The excellence

her students and

set high goals for

Theta State collected **\$386.00** at the State Convention in Grants! Way to Go!!!!

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Women Teachers to the Calling. . .



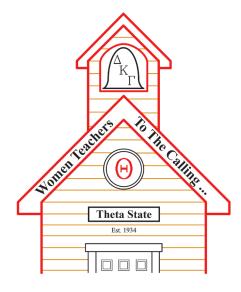
Susan Swope Theta State President 2015-2017

Ring Ring...

Hello again! Yes, I have recovered from the state convention. It really was not that hard because **Ginny Hill, Ina Jean Barnes, Claudette Jaramillo, Karen Ransom, Clara Enriquez,** and the rest of the ladies had everything ready and so organized. It really showed how much work they put into a great convention. Oh, my officer team is great, too! I could not be involved with a better group than the sisters of DKG.

I also enjoyed our International Representative, **Tamara Flores-Hernandez**. She was so genuine and inspiring with her commitment to the society and purposes. She just lit up the room with positivity. I am really glad things worked out for her to join us.

I was heartbroken to have to vote to dissolve Rho chapter. You know, those ladies always lined up with me when I was chosen as Pi President or the Pi representative. MJ always got us in trouble because we were talking and laughing too much. I hope we can find ways to support and save our other struggling chapters. We need to see what Pat Graff and Gamma chapter did to get so many new members. I was very delighted to see all the chapters that had growth and those who were able to maintain members. I have been saying all along that a strong active state is only possible with chapters



that put members first and celebrate together.

You know what else was great to see at the state convention? All the new presidents and members who are serving again as president. Many of them were visiting with each other and, hopefully, they will all be able to attend Leadership where they can continue to build a network for support and growth of Theta State. I think **Jeanette Vigil** has a great couple of days planned in Albuquerque **June 17**th and 18th. I wish I could be there both days, but I believe the presenters will get the new year started off strongly.

No, I do not get much time off this summer, but I do get to go to Nashville! I have not been since I went there for my high school senior trip. It will be nice to see the other state presidents that I met last summer and then getting to do all the "Presidential" stuff. I am sure there will be some downtime when I can go see some of the sights. We have several sisters from New Mexico going, so we will have breakfast one morning in the hotel before we get the day started with meetings and workshops. I had better get going. It is always uplifting to talk about the great things happening in Delta Kappa Gamma. I know if everyone gives just a little, it makes big things possible, and that is what I see happening in New Mexico. Thanks for your kind words and support. They always make things better.

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2016 Theta State Convention is a Hit!

Ina Jean Barnes smiles as Tamara speaks

The women of the Northwest hosted a wonderful Theta State Convention in Grants, NM. As of Friday evening, 63 *DKG* sisters were registered for the convention. Fifty-eight (58) attended the TS Executive Board meeting to conduct business. All were treated to a salad/baked potato supper. After the supper, we got down to business. **Tamara Flores-Hernández**, Latin American Representative to the DKG International

Administrative Board, brought greetings from International. She told us that being in New Mexico was, "like being home". The committee reports were read. **Yvette Moore**, TS Editor, encouraged all of us to demonstrate the excellence of our chapters through the Theta State News and the NM DKG website. The state Finance Committee met to determine the proposed budget using *Go to Meeting*. A plea went out to the Executive Board for a bylaws committee. By the end of the meeting, TS sisters had volunteered to serve. The Leadership committee

reported that Leadership will be held June 17th and 18th in Albuquerque at the Shephard of the Valley. It is open to all members, and training is geared toward incoming chapter presidents. We are all invited to the Fall Meeting & Birthday Luncheon at the Courtyard Mariott in Albuquerque on November 5, 2016.

On Saturday morning, our program opened Grants High School's MCJROTC National and NMAA State Champion color guard. **Jeannette Vigil** introduced our International guest, **Tamara Flores-Hernández**, Latin American Representative. She and **Jeannette** were state presidents in the same biennium. She talked about DKG initiatives, membership, global opportunities, and leadership development.

Clara Enriquez reported that 64 members were registered for the convention. Each participant received a hand painted bag filled with goodies.

We were all invited to the 2017 TS Convention in Albuquerque at the Uptown Mariott. The dates will be determined soon. Alpha Delta requested \$500.00 of seed money for the 2017 convention.

Unfortunately, TS voted to accept the dissolution of Rho chapter. President **Susan Swope** read

a very sad letter from **Judy Crocker** requesting dissolution, and it was granted ruefully.

We learned a great deal in the workshops. **Brooke Ratliff** showed us how to make money through *Teachers Pay Teachers*. **Yvette Moore**, TS Editor, told us how to begin organizing and archiving our chapter histories. **Debi Miller** showed us how to eat healthily and provided recipes. **BJ Johnson** demonstrated how

to make candy bouquets. **Dianna Valdez**, TS Treasurer, informed attendants of the responsibilities of chapter treasurers. **Tamara Flores-Hernández** informed attendees about strenhgthening our chapters through sisterhood.

Of course, the banquet was beautifully decorated. Ina Jean Barnes introduced Tamara, pointing out that she was one of the 12 founders of Zeta State in San Luis Potosi, Mexico. Tamara's love for Delta Kappa Gamma is

evident when she speaks. She asks everyone she meets if they know about DKG.

On Sunday morning, before we all said goodbye in the snow (yes, snow!), we attended the 2016 necrology service. **Ella Kelly** (TS 2nd vice president), **Melody Bassing**, and **Gay Simpkins** conducted a beautiful service recognizing the contributions of those who have passed during the last year.

If you didn't attend the 2016 TS Convention, you were missed! Be sure to mark your calendars for the Fall Meeting & Birthday Luncheon on November 5.



Cheryl Martinez, Susan Swope, Gwen Hamilton, Tamara Flores-Hernandez, Pat Burnett

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Hand painted placards



Joe Clarkson - Alpha Lambda



Kay Hannum reading rules





Gail Simpkins



Susan, Ella & Melody



Clara Enriquez with banners



Claudette Jaramillo - Psi



TS Achievement Award



Necrology Ceremony



Toivanen PSI



Color Guard



Upsilon - president installation



Gwen Hamilton, Yvette



Table of Necrology Ceremony



Alpha Epsilon



Shawna Denney - Kappa



Presidents receiving instructions



Alyce Cummins, Yvette Moore



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Theta State Convention Articles

Healthy Cooking Workshop

Debi Miller presented an outstanding workshop at the Theta State Convention. Having had a history of weight problems, **Debi** shared her journey to become the svelte, energetic woman she is today. Part of that journey involved finding wonderful recipes that incorporated healthy vegetables full of awesome nutrition.

I have to admit, I was a little skeptical when she made a chip dip that used soft, cooked cashews, spices, artichoke hearts and spinach. The end result was a dip that closely resembled a melted queso. Now, I have never given artichokes an opportunity to pass my lips. The "choke" in the name seemed reason enough to me to avoid them. But **Debi** claimed that she takes this dip to school functions and never has left overs. Therefore, at tasting time, I summoned all my courage, only to find that this dip was delicious.

That being said, I was still dubious about Carrot Hot Dogs. She had peeled long carrots, marinated them and cooked them. We put them in buns and added condiments. Unbelievably, they tasted exactly like a hot dog. I even looked into the bun again to be sure no one had made a substitution.

In addition to the above treats, **Debi** cooked spaghetti with meatless meatballs and made a tossed salad, loaded with veggies, and topped with an incredible homemade lemon vinagrette. Thanks to **Debi**, all who attended left with awesome recipes!

Submitted by Sharon Sevachko, Omega Chapter



Creative Candy Bouquets

Is there anything that could be sweeter than **BJ Johnson**? If there is, it would have to be her creative candy bouquets. During the Theta State Convention, **BJ** shared with her DKG sisters the techniques she uses to create beautiful candy gifts.

- 1. Choose a container that reflects the occasion.

 These can be easily purchased at dollar stores or can be recycled from items around the house.
- 2. Cut a piece of styrofoam to fit the container and, using a glue gun, attach it to the inside of the container. If you have chosen a clear glass container, you might want to wrap the foam with tissue paper or surround it with shredded paper to keep it from being visible.
- 3. Now, you simply attach pieces of wrapped candy to toothpicks, using tape or a glue gun. (For large bouquets, you can use wooden skewers). Then, starting at the back, for a one sided bouquet, or in the middle for a circular bouquet, you push the the picks into the foam and create a candy masterpiece.
- 4. Finally, you can use squares of cellophane, ribbon or netting to fill in any spaces. Simply push the toothpick into the middle and fold upwards. Tape at the bottom to secure. You can also add notions, small toys or little flowers, as the creative energy moves you.

BJ shared finished examples of football bouquets, complete with team insignias. There was also a graduation candy bouquet with a miniature diploma. Other occasions for making a candy bouquet might include: birthdays or anniversaries. I used the technique to make my mother (**Ruth**) a Mother's Day bouquet of Baby Ruth candy bars, which she loved. Truly, **BJ's** seminar opened the doors of sweet creativity to all who participated.

Submitted by Sharon Sevachko, Omega



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Chapter News

Uspilon Updates



Upsilon Chapter announces their newly elected officers for the next biennium. **Sharon Palacios** is President, **Blanche Spencer** is Vice-President, **Gladys Hielkema** is Secretary and **Ella George** remains as Treasurer. **Helen Silva** was appointed Parliamentarian.

Upsilon Chapter had a great time in helping put on the state convention in Grants. **Helen Silva** and **Sharon Palacios** made the embroidered bags for the convention.

Gay Simpkins and her mother made the lovely centerpieces for the banquet. Sharon Palacios and Clara Enriquez made the red rose candy cups. Gladys Hielkema and Kim Wells brought fruit for the hospitality room. Clara Enriquez and Sharon Palacios, with the help of Ella Kelly and Melody Bassing from Alpha Epsilon chapter, took care of registration. Working with Ginny Hill and Psi Chapter was such a treat in cooperation.

Article and photo submitted by Clara Enriquez, Upsilon



Clara Enriquez stands with the banners

Alpha Delta

Alpha Delta Chapter has been very fortunate in having many talented members. At our April meeting, **Dr. Sharon Wilson** shared a lesson in art



with us. She has traveled many summers to Italy, and each time, has improved her artistic skills by taking lessons from Italian artists. She provided materials for us to reproduce a field of poppies using acrylic paints. We learned how to paint the background, and then how to fill in the details by using the different brushes and combining the colors to make other needed colors. Everyone was proud of their picture and wanted to show them off.

Our May meeting was a celebration of our 50th birthday. First there was business and the installation of **Debra Valero** as our chapter president. **Priscilla Brower** then presented a letter from a former member who was also directly related to two of our



founding members. She read about events that were occurring during the year 1966. **Caroline Nelson** showed pictures from our scrapbook, which honored past Theta State presidents, and those members that have been members for thirty years or more. **Pat Chaplin** and **Shirley Vigil** provided us with a wonderful treat of sandwiches and cake. Each member present went home with two red roses.

Article and photo submitted by Caroline Nelson Page 7 Summer 2016

More Chapter News

Gamma News

In the past year, Ganma chapter has been able to initiate SIX new members, all outstanding members of our educational community:

- * Andrea Fletcher, teacher at Bernalillo County's Metro Detention Center
 - * Mary Fugate, librarian in Grants
- * Patricia Gardner, NBCT and social studies teacher at ABQ High
- * **Kat Graham**, NBCT and math teacher at La Cueva High
- * **Melanie Telles**, NBCT and English teacher at Freedom High
- * Ritamarie Theiler, NBCT and head special education teacher for APS' Homebound program

We are so very proud of all of these amazing women! We currently have two more prospective members in the "DKG pipeline!"

Our chapter programs continue to be very entertaining and interesting. Sonya Romero Smith, a teacher who has received much national recognition from "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" and other organizations, came to share her experiences working with students in extreme poverty. Evelyn Sanchez, one of the co-founders of the Center for Hands-On Learning, shared that organization's programs to support science learning in classrooms around the nation.

Chapter members this year have contributed generously to our local CASA program, the Ronald McDonald House, the PTA Clothing Bank, the Title I Homeless programs, and several DKG International efforts.

Incoming Chapter officers include **Evelyn Sanchez**, president; **Kat Graham**, vice-president;



Mary Fugate, recording secretary; Alice Wesner, corresponding secretary and newsletter; Dianna Valdez, treasurer; Jean Flanagan, membership chair; and Pat Graff, immediate past president. New officers will be installed in May.

The chapter extends special thanks to **Katherine Stewart**, who is stepping down from recording secretary after more than a decade of service, and past president **Diane Wesner**, who is leaving our officer team after many years of leadership and service.

Article submitted by Pat Graf



Pat Graf carries the Gamma Banner

Theta State Officers

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Some More Chapter News

Alpha Epsilon Exciting Evening May 2

Alpha Epsilon chapter, San Juan County, met on May 2 at the home of **Joan Lewis** for a banquet (prepared solely by hostess **Joan**), initiation of four new members, reinstatement of a former member and past president, and installation of new officers. What a wonderful evening of ceremony and fellowship.

Ella Kelly adds this comment: "What a wonderful evening with AE sisters! Had a chance to reconnect with Orla and Nancy, as well as get to know our new initiates Lori, Shawl, Jasmine and Trudy better. Thank you Joan for the fantastic meal and lovely atmosphere. I enjoyed the evening."

Ella continued with: "State Convention in Grants was excellent. AE had five members attend and our table decorations for lunch were perfect! The break out session on candy bouquets was fun and something I think our chapter will attempt to make."

Submitted by Karen Ransom



2016 Initiates: (left to right) Shawl Iron Moccasin, Trudy Wagoner, Lore Mize, Jasmine Brown



ALPHA EPSILON 2016-2018 OFFICERS: (right to left) Melody Bassing, President; Gloria Hornbecker, First Vice President; Sharla Valdez, Second Vice President; Joan Lewis, Secretary; Cynthia Wagoner, Treasurer; and Lavon Hamblin, Parliamentarian



Oh My, Omega!

Omega chapter wrapped up its year with a wellorchestrated chicken nacho dinner. It is Omega's custom for the retired members to prepare dinner for the working members. **Cynthia Smith** coordinated the effort. Of course, **Freddie Olhausen-Finkner** brought her famous key-lime pie.

The focus of the meeting was the installation of officers. Yvette Moore will serve as chapter president for the 2016-2018 biennium; Bertha Cantu will serve as vice-president; Navora Richardson will serve as secretary; and Barbara Jewett will serve as treasurer. Omega has some exciting plans for the next biennium. We will continue some of the great projects designed by president Sharon Sevachko and continue to recognize CHAMPIONS in the classroom, recognize Las Cruces Public Schools for making MAGIC in classrooms, and following Dr. Schmid's member recruitment plan.

Submitted by Yvette Moore



Navora Richardson, Yvette Moore



Bertha Cantu, Yvette Moore at Theta State Conventnion

Orla Lybrook reinstating

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Still More Chapter News

Alpha Iota

Four members of Alpha Iota, Ann Calderwood, Lillian Moon, Jean Leonard and Alvce Cummins, attended the Theta State 81st Annual State Convention held in Grants, NM, April 29 through May 1. The main event, Installation of New Chapter Presidents, was held on Saturday evening at the Banquet. AI's incoming president, Lillian Moon, was escorted by Ann Calderwood, outgoing president, in the procession to the podium where the Theta State Rituals Chairman, Clara Enriquez, performed the installation for each chapter. At the awards ceremony, Jean Leonard, Alyce Cummins, Marilyn Ortman and Betty Begeal received longevity awards for their 45 years of active membership in Delta Kappa Gamma. Martha Deveneau, Reta Thomas, and Jan Oglesby received the award for 40 years of membership. Alyce Cummins and Betty Begeal received Merit Awards.

At the Necrology Service on Sunday morning, Ann Calderwood presented an obituary for Alpha Iota's Sybil Mitchell who passed away in May, 2015. Other DKG members honored were Betty Woodward, Epsilon, July, 2015, and Lucille Thompson, Alpha Epsilon, September 20, 2015.

During a break in proceedings on Saturday afternoon, Alpha Iota members decided to "go

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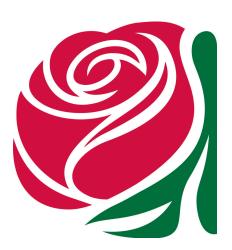


Alpha Iota at 2016 TS Convention

underground" and visit the Mining Museum. They found that an elevator takes you down into the mine shaft where you can walk a short distance and view the mining equipment. The walls reveal the levels at which different minerals are found, including uranium. The exhibits above ground contain artifacts, fossils, weapons and basketry which date back as far as 700 AD. The museum alone is worth a trip to Grants.

A special tribute is due **Ann Calderwood** for providing transportation, not only to and from Grants, but also for navigating between two venues so that her passengers could attend all the activities. Thank you, **Ann!**

Photo and Article submitted by Alyce Cummins, AI Communications Chair



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Committee Communiqué

US Forum -

EDUCATION BILL (ESSA) SUMMARY

To see a summary of the new education bill go to http://www.edweek.org/ew/issues/every-student-succeeds-act/index.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news1-RM. I am concerned by two facts. (1) There will be a new U.S. President in 2017, and (2) there will probably be a new Secretary of Education in 2017. With the new law taking effect in the 2017-18 school year, will there be adequate time to see that all states have their plans in and approved? (That is probably only a six month window of time to carry out all that goes with such a large change in all states.)

REVISED GED STANDARDS

The GED Testing Service has recently lowered the passing score for the test. This will allow states to lower the score needed to pass the GED. Every section will go from 150 of 200 to pass to 145 of 200. This is retroactive and is estimated to result in approximately 25,000 additional individuals passing the GED based on exams they have already taken. States would have to agree to make the change. To find out whether this change affects you or someone you know check with an institution near you which is part of the GED program. This may be a community college or your state department of education. A person having this high school equivalency certificate will have better job opportunities.

FORUM FACEBOOK PAGE LINK

For those of you desiring discussion of legislative topics there is a U. S. Forum Facebook page online athttp://www.facebook.com/DKG.US.Forum FORUM WEB SITE: http://www.usforumdkg.org/

Public Relations -

Be sure to get ready for the 2016 International Convention in Nashville, Tennessee, July 5 - 9. Gwen Hamilton (gwenhamilton@centurylink.net) and Pat Burnett (rogerpat@cableone.net) have bookmarks that represent NM to give away at the Convention. We still have pins to give away as well. Promoting Theta State is one way to show our Pride in New Mexico!

Emergency Fund -

Members who sustain major losses from floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, wild fires and other natural disasters may be recommended by their chapter and state organization presidents to receive a U.S. \$500 Emergency Fund Award.

- Inform state organization president Chapter president
- Contact Society Headquarters State president
- Approved request leads to check Executive director

Emergency Fund provides support

Following a 1948 flood that destroyed Vanport, Oregon, a plea for help in the DKG NEWS resulted in more than \$3,000 that became the Emergency Fund. The fund continues as natural disasters affect members. Contributions demonstrate the Society's "genuine spiritual fellowship."

http://www.dkg.org/DKGMember/MyDKG/Emergency_Fund/DKGMember/ Emergency_Fund.aspx?hkey=bc547fa8-4046-4102-9d2b-f35cb1b97c51

Special Projects -

Schools for Africa - Schools for Africa became the Society's first official international project in 2010. Currently the project works with 13 countries in sub-Saharan Africa including Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Sierra Leone and Guinea Bissau. The SFA mission involves providing access to quality basic education for children, focusing on girls, orphans and other vulnerable youngsters.

Support for Early-Career Educators - In order to share the vision, Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide, and strengthen our Society, the Educational Excellence Committee established Supporting Early-career Educators (SEE) as its second international project during the 2012 International Convention in New York City. SEE encourages members/chapters to be creative in support of early-career educators with a variety of strategies, such as

- giving support for phone calls and visits,
- helping with lesson plans and bulletin board ideas,
- offering advice on classroom management and parent-teacher relations; and
- providing support in appropriate and practical ways.

RETURN ADDRESS: Yvette Moore 3040 Cheyenne Drive Las Cruces, NM 88011-5269

Delta Kappa Gamma Society International THETA STATE NEWS

DEADLINES: Fall - August 10 Winter - December 10 Spring - February 10 Summer - May 10

2017 THETA STATE CONVENTION

SAVE THE DATE!

You're not going to want to miss one of the most different Theta State Conventions ever! Mark your calendars for April 28-30, 2017 to be at the fabulous Marriott Hotel in Albuquerque. Many interesting plans are in the works!

Early bird registration will be announced in the November Theta State News and at the Fall Meeting on November 5, 2016.

DON'T WAIT!

Consider presenting at the April Convention. We want to offer workshops that will interest all members and non-members: retired, working (at all levels of education), early educators and veteran educators, personal growth and professional applications.

TO PRESENT:

Send Name, chapter, e-mail, phone number, 100 word or less description of your workshop, intended audience (see above list), a/v or other special needs

SUGGESTIONS:

Send program ideas or possible presenters, including their contact information, a description of why they would be a great workshop presenter, and your testimonial of having attended a session by this presenter.

SEND TO DIANNA VALDEZ AT valdez@aps.edu by November 1, 2016.

If you have any questions, contact Jeannette Vigil 2017 TS Convention Chairman leahvigil14@gmail.com 505-328-5798