



Newswheel

APRIL 2014

*"Each of us can be compared to a spoke in a wheel.
Without each spoke functioning well, our wheel won't turn."*

Jann Packard receives 2014 Helen E. Quinn Award

The 2014 recipient of Alpha Alpha Chapter's Helen E. Quinn Service to Education Award was Jann Packard.

She was selected for her years of leadership as first executive director of the Monroe County School Boards Association, as well as for her devotion as a volunteer to the students of Rochester's School #20.

Pictured are award-recipient Jann Packard with Alpha Alpha President Donna Noble (right and below), and with Anne Abbey who nominated her for the award.



During the business meeting, the following members were elected to serve as chapter leaders for the 2014-2016 biennium:

President: Pam Eberhardt
1st Vice President: Dr. Betsy Balzano
2nd Vice President: Lori Burch
Secretary: Mary Ann Geonie
Treasurer: Annie Tran

In addition, Andrella Hurley, a former Alpha Alpha Scholar, was accepted as a new member of our chapter.

Dr. Betsy Balzano encouraged a letter-writing campaign to NYS legislators and Board of Regents members to press State Education Department to remove or delay the high stakes edTPA (Teacher Performance Assessments), developed by Pearson, as part of a requirement for NYS teacher certification commencing for the 2014 graduating class.



From our President

Dear wonderful
Alpha Alpha
women,

I'm happy and excited to write this message today, as I'm still on a high note after last evening's annual **Helen E.**

Quinn Award Dinner. Our Chapter was delighted to present our Service to Education Award to **Jann Packard**, the first full-time Director of the MCSBA, for her impressive contributions to educational direction and growth in Monroe County schools. Jann's lovely words of thanks made me proud to be an educator and encouraged Alpha Alpha to continue to be a voice of change and growth. I send my thanks to the Quinn Committee, **Mary Lou Galasso**, **Rosemary Szulgit**, and **Sarisa Zoghlion**, for organizing such an enjoyable, powerful, and inspiring evening.

I am on that high note from our business meeting as well! We had a full agenda of good news. Our Chapter's \$240 contribution to the Pi State Awards benefit raffle exceeded their goal. **Gretchen Hughes** reported how well our own awards scholars are progressing in their studies and careers.



Donna Noble

One of them, Andrella Hurley, was also approved for membership in the chapter.

Dr. Betsy Balzano provided us all with information about a letter-writing campaign regarding the controversial implementation of **edTPA** requirements in NY State. That information, as well as addresses for our regents and legislators, can be found on our website at

http://www.dkgalphaalpha.org/uploads/1/4/8/8/14883700/2014-03_edtpa_news.pdf.

There are specific 'talking points' and guidelines given. I'm also willing to share my own letter with anyone who would like it -- just email and ask me for a copy. Please join in this effort by reading the information and writing to urge the SED to delay **edTPA** certification requirements in our state!

For our chapter, some of the best news of all was the approval of Alpha Alpha's slate of officers for 2014-2016. It will be exciting to have new and strong leadership in place to lead us in the coming biennium! Our officers will be **Pamela Eberhardt**, President; **Betsy Balzano**, 1st Vice President; **Lori Burch**, 2nd Vice President; **Mary Ann Geonie**, Secretary, and **Annie Tran**, Treasurer. I cannot thank these women enough for being committed (and brave enough!) to step forward when asked; and I assure each new leader that we will ALL continue to assist and support them and our DKG goals.

The new officers will be inducted at the May Founder's Day meeting (see Page 7), when we will also hold new member initiation and recognition of service to Alpha Alpha.

Please plan to attend and celebrate with us!

This note is for all officers and committee chairs, both present and incoming: there will be a 2014-2016 Program Planning meeting on **TUESDAY MAY 13**, at the Alumni House, 144 Utica Street, Brockport. Detailed information will be sent to you soon in a separate email. Start planning, and save the date!

And lastly, here are my wishes for you as we FINALLY leave this cold and lingering winter behind us: Come on, warmth and sunshine! Safe travels for our snowbird members on their way home! ...and, be proud to be a Delta Kappa Gamma key woman educator. We do make a difference!

Happy Spring,

Donna

<http://www.dkgalphaalpha.org>

Birthdays

Say "Happy Birthday" to these Alpha Alpha members in the near future:

April

- 17 Leah Barrett
- 17 Betty Vary
- 22 Linda Muto
- 22 Karen Velyk
- 24 Mary Ann Geonie

May

- 8 Tracy Maggio
- 21 Carol St. George
- 22 Mary Anne Pietrzykowski
- 24 Joan Fenton
- 28 Monica Cosgrove
- 29 Betsy Balzano

Alpha Alpha Member: Mitzie Collins



Mary Ellen (Mitzie) Collins is a faculty member at both the Eastman Community Music School and the Nazareth College Music Department. Her specialty, for which she is well-known internationally, is Celtic and American folk music as played by the hammered dulcimer. She has performed at Alpha Alpha meetings on numerous occasions.

For ten years Mitzie hosted "Sounds Like Fun" on WXXI Radio. She was the founder and former owner of Sampler Records. She earned a BA in 1963 from the Eastman School of Music. She is the recipient of many awards for her talent and contributions to music. She was made an Honorary Member of Alpha Alpha Chapter in 1984.

Mitzie serves as music coordinator at her church, and as a substitute organist at several churches in our area.



Photo Album: March 26 Helen E. Quinn Award Dinner



ABOVE LEFT: Alpha Alpha President Elect Pam Eberhardt with Anne O'Toole.

ABOVE: Lisa Montanaro, Fran Whited, and Fran's guest, Rosalie (Mower) Gabbert, who was a charter member of our chapter and its first Recording Secretary.

FAR LEFT: Mary Anne Pietrzekowski and Ena Farley.

LEFT: Display of Helen E. Quinn memorabilia at the annual award dinner held in honor of this charter chapter member.



FAR LEFT: Jann Packard, 2014 Helen E. Quinn Award recipient, thanking members after receiving the award. Jann is giving the award check she received to Rochester's School #20 where she has served as a volunteer. Students there wrote her thank-you notes that surprised her and were displayed at the dinner.

LEFT: Rosemary Callard-Szulgit reflecting on the contributions of Helen Quinn as a reminder of why the chapter each year recognizes an outstanding supporter of education in her honor.

ROW AT TOP OF PAGE: Lynn Keefer, Fran Whited, Annie Tran (newly appointed 2014-2016 Treasurer), Sr. Edwardine Weaver, Lisa Montanaro, Jeanette Banker, Mary Ingersoll, Sue Gentner, and Helen E. Quinn Dinner Committee Chairperson Mary Lou Galasso.



Teacher education programs in NYS under fire from edTPA

By Dr. Christine Murray,
Professor and edTPA
Coordinator,
Department of Education
and Human Development,
The College at Brockport

Teacher education students have spent 3 ½ years and a great deal of money completing programs approved by the State Education Department to prepare for certification to teach in New York. Now, as they are involved in their student teaching semester, they are also required to complete and pass a complex performance based assessment, the edTPA. This assessment, in addition to several other new certification exams, is required for all teacher candidates seeking certification after May 1, 2014.

The edTPA was developed by the Stanford University Center for Assessment, Learning, and Equity (SCALE) as a “multiple-measure,” uniform assessment system set up to support K-12 Common Core State Standards. New York State has contracted with Pearson Inc., the private, for-profit corporation to deliver and score the tests in NYS. Student teachers must submit an electronic portfolio that includes a learning segment with 3-5 lesson plans, instructional materials, student assessments, and a written planning commentary. They must submit brief video clips of their teaching and a written commentary. The third task requires an analysis of student work samples with a commentary on how they would reteach specific students with additional learning needs. Each task is scored on a set of rubrics specified by SCALE and Pearson.

To date, 32 states are implementing the edTPA; many are running pilot programs. Only New York and Washington have made passing the edTPA mandatory for certification. A very high bar has been set for the passing rate for the edTPA in New York by the Regents. Washington’s cut score (the minimum grade needed to pass) is significantly lower than that established here. NYS students must score 41 out of 75 to pass, which is projected to result in a 37% failure rate. In Washington, the cut score of 35 is expected to allow 85 -90 % of students to pass.

The initial cost for the edTPA is \$300, with retakes of each of the sections costing an additional \$100. This cost, plus additional costs for each of the other certification exams and the certification application fee, creates another financial burden for students already struggling to cover their college expenses. Teacher educators report that enrollment in teacher education programs is already dropping as a result of the negative public perceptions about the teaching profession. There is great concern that some currently enrolled teacher candidates may decide to withdraw from teacher education due to these new requirements and costs.

Teacher education departments across New York have worked to make curricular revisions since they first received the edTPA assessment handbook drafts at the end of 2012. However, there has not been enough time to provide this year’s seniors opportunities to learn about and practice the assessments before the edTPA takes effect. While SED claims it has provided ample time for teacher educators to prepare current student teachers, the reality is that most of these students have had only one semester to learn anything about it.

Teacher candidates, parents, and the public are now pressuring the Regents to change course. New York State United Teachers (NYSED) and United University Professions (UUP) that represents SUNY teacher educators have called for the Regents to remove the edTPA as a certification requirement. In early March nearly 80 teacher educators from 20 colleges and universities gathered at The College at Brockport SUNY to discuss actions they would take in support of their students, <http://uupinfo.org/communications/uupdate/1314/140311.php>.

However, the Regents continue to support the SED implementation plan. SED claims that enough time has been given, and grant funding to colleges has been provided, to support the implementation. What SED has not communicated to the Regents is the difficulty that teacher educators have had in obtaining edTPA materials in a timely manner, the total lack of sample assessments for student teachers to help them prepare, the substantial technical problems of the electronic portfolio, and the poor communication about critical policies and procedures between SCALE, SED, and Pearson, Inc. Instead, Commissioner King has communicated a disdain for teacher education programs, stating that there are more individuals being certified as teachers than there are job openings. There is some concern that the real goal of the edTPA is to provide a means for SED to close some of New York State’s teacher education programs.

The edTPA may improve future teachers’ effectiveness, but there is no research yet to support this assumption. Current teacher education students, and especially those who are about to graduate, should not be the guinea pigs for New York’s grand experiment. Delta Kappa Gamma members who are concerned about our future teachers are encouraged to write their Regents and state legislators to demand that the edTPA not be required as a certification requirement for initial teacher certification.

If you’d like to help affect state-level decisions regarding edTPA implementation, a list of talking points as well as contact information for Regents and lawmakers can be accessed from the Alpha Alpha website at <http://www.dkgalphaalpha.org/index.html>.



Book review: The Smartest Kids in the World and How They Got That Way

By Gretchen Hughes,
Alpha Alpha
Member

Until she was asked to do a story on Michelle Rhee, *Time* magazine journalist Amanda Ripley had avoided articles about education. Then in digging through the mass of newly available data, she encountered “the biggest mystery in the room”: *Why were some kids learning so much--and others so very little?* Her assumption was that the main difference had to do with wealth and advantage.

Then she found a chart that ranked students from the world’s industrialized nations over time using a common measuring stick. While achievement of students in the United States remained essentially flat, the scores of Finnish students zoomed from near the bottom to the top, those from Norway went down, and Canada’s nearly reached those of Japan. Investigation revealed specific examples of jobs that now required significantly more skills than previously. The benefits of a homogeneous population and relative economic security seemed to answer some of the questions, but there were obvious situations where that didn’t work. The population of Norway is largely homogeneous and well off with many welfare benefits, yet scores went down. Poland has almost the same percentage of children living in poverty as the U. S. and their scores went up dramatically.

The approach she settled on was to select the PISA test (Program for International Student Assessment) as a measure because students were measured on their creativity and thinking skills in responding to the test rather than rote learning. Then she sought to learn what was being done in Finland, South Korea, and Poland for their students to make such improvements.

Using American exchange students studying in the three countries gave her “field” researchers. Kim, from a small rural Oklahoma town with an underachieving high school, went to Finland; Eric, from a highly ranked high school in Minnesota, went to South Korea; and Tom went to Poland from his home in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Ridley visited their parents and local school officials, maintained regular internet communication with each student, and traveled to each country to spend time with them and to learn what interventions had occurred to create their dramatic improvements in student scores.

Among her findings: Teachers in all three countries are highly unionized and rarely get fired. Some of them objected to some of the changes, but they adapted.
(Teacher unions and tenure are not really the problem.)

They all have standardized testing with a major test at the end of schooling that determines a students’ next step--college or vocation. *(Scoring exceptionally well in South Korea means they are basically set for life. The whole country prepares for the day of that test!)*

All three American students had difficulty with math. All three countries teach math rigorously starting as early as pre-school.

The biggest change Finland made was to establish a high standard for students to enter a few select teacher training colleges and rigorous academic programs in their fields for certification. It became as hard to get into teacher preparation programs as it was to medical school, making teaching a much more highly desirable career.

Poland established a stricter common core curriculum, added regular standardized testing (used to measure student, not teacher progress), and added an extra year of high school before testing students for entry into vocational or college prep programs. The added year and increased vocational rigor brought the most growth. Professional development for teachers became a priority.

Eric found that South Koreans sleep through their public school classes and get their chief benefits from the twelve or so hours they spend studying in after-school programs. They are basically sleep-deprived most of the time. The successful *hagwon* operators can make a fortune.

In all three countries parental involvement focuses on student study habits and learning rather than student activities. There are almost no public school sports programs, and classrooms are low tech, reducing costs.

There is no effort to shield students from failure; they are expected to adjust. Extensive resources are often expended to assist students with learning difficulties.

This book has much that could inform our thinking about how to approach school improvement. Some ideas could be implemented in our own classrooms now. Keep in mind, also, that this is a study done by a writer for a popular magazine, not an educational researcher preparing for peer review in a journal. *The Smartest Kids in the World* is well worth checking out of the library or purchasing--in paperback or on e-book.

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Alpha Alpha Chapter
March 26, 2014

Helen E. Quinn Award Dinner
Business Meeting Minutes

Attendance: A. Abbey, B. Balzano, J. Bunker, B. Bishop, L. Burch, J. Cantleberry, D. D'Aiuto, P. Eberhardt, E. Farley, J. Fenton, J. Fuller, M. Galasso, S. Gentner, M.A. Geonie, G. Hughes, M. Ingersoll, L. Keefer, L. Kotwas, E. Leshnower, A. Mance, L. Montanaro, D. Noble, A. O'Toole, M.A. Pietrzykowski, P. Quamo, R. Callard-Szulgit, A. Tran, K. Velyk, Sr. E. Weaver, E. Wuethrich, F. Whited, S. Zoghlil
Guests: R. Gabbert, J. Packard, D. Phillips

CALL TO ORDER: President D. Noble 8:00 pm.

Congratulations to Jann Packard, Former Executive Director of the Monroe County School Board Association, 2014 Helen E. Quinn Award recipient; thanks to M. Galasso and Award Committee for evening events and dinner.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion made and passed to approve minutes from January 25, 2014, as printed in February 2014 *Newswheel*.

CORRESPONDENCE: K. Velyk

DKG Society International President, Beverly Helms, thanked Chapter for our \$230.00 contribution to the World Fellowship Fund.

TREASURER'S REPORT: P. Eberhardt

Feb. expenses:

Checkbook Balance Jan. 31, 2014: \$8,122.81; Feb. 28, 2014: \$8,662.81.
Operating Fund Balance Feb. 28, 2014: \$8,088.37.
Finger Lakes Area Community Endowment Funds: \$21,627.00.
Brockport Endowment Funds June 30, 2013: \$150,700.26.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive: D. Noble

Executive board met on March 20; new slate of 2014-2016 officers finalized
Pi State Awards Benefits: Chapter raised \$240 for Pi State scholarships and awards

Recommend that Financial Chair be added to Executive board as ex-officio member

Annual Program Planning Meeting to be held Tuesday, May 13, 5:00 pm,
SUNY Brockport Alumni House for current and incoming officers and committee chairpersons.

Nominations: E. Weuthrich

Presentation of 2014-2016 slate of officers:

President: Pam Eberhardt
1st Vice President: Dr. Betsy Balzano
2nd Vice President: Lori Burch
Secretary: Mary Ann Geonie
Treasurer: Annie Tran

Membership: L. Kotwas presented nominee for membership; Andrella Hurley, nominated by G. Hughes .

COMMITTEE REPORTS, continued:

Finance: E. Leshnower proposed change in the structure and wording of Brockport Foundation awards so the annual earnings can be pooled to guarantee each award is for a minimum of \$1000. This will allow us flexibility to increase the award amounts without having to rewrite the agreement, and allow the chapter to focus on fundraising for the Bishop, Sherwood, and Vary awards to get them closer to an endowed level.

Awards and Scholarships: G. Hughes reported all 2013 award recipients are doing well in their educational pursuits and endeavors.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS:

B. Balzano encouraged a letter-writing campaign to NYS legislators and Board of Regents members to press State Education Department to remove or delay the high stakes edTPA (Teacher Performance Assessments), developed by Pearson, as part of a requirement for NYS teacher certification commencing for the 2014 graduating class.

Motions:

L. Kotwas moved to accept Andrella Hurley as a new member. Motion seconded and passed.

E. Wuethrich moved to accept the 2014-2016 slate of officers:

President: Pam Eberhardt
1st Vice President: Dr. Betsy Balzano
2nd Vice President: Lori Burch
Secretary: Mary Ann Geonie
Treasurer: Annie Tran (appointed)

Motions seconded and passed.

E. Leshnower moved that the Chapter support a change in the structure and wording of the awards maintained by the Brockport Foundation so the annual earnings are pooled, and the wording of the agreements indicates each award is for a minimum of \$1000. Motion seconded and passed.

P. Eberhardt moved that a change be made to our By-Laws, which will add the Finance Chair as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Executive Board. Motion seconded and passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Recognition: E. Leshnower- Deadline extended to accept nominations for Outstanding Service Award recipient- forms on website; nominations due to E. Leshnower by April 15, 2014.

Alpha Xi Chapter has voted to dissolve; we are inviting their members to consider transferring their membership to Alpha Alpha.

We will be having a silent auction at the June Awards Breakfast again this year. Please inform Monica of any items you may want to donate.

Next business meeting: Founder's Day, May 7, 2014, at Lakeshore Country Club. "Hugs and Tissues" appreciation awards from D. Noble: E. Weuthrich, Annie Tran, and Mary Ann Geonie.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:35 pm.

Karen Velyk, Secretary

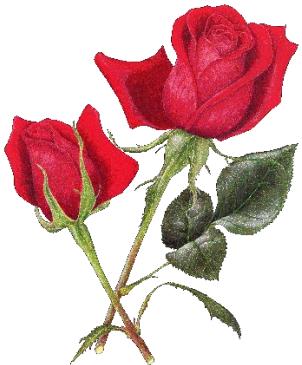
2013-14 Remaining Alpha Alpha Meetings

Wednesday, May 7
5:30 pm

Founders' Day, Officers Election, Member Initiation
(History & Membership Committees)
Lakeshore Country Club

Saturday, June 7
9:00 am

Annual Scholar Awards Breakfast
New York Room, Cooper Hall, College at Brockport



Founders' Day & Installation of Officers

5:15 pm Gathering and perusal of scrapbooks, old and new
Wednesday, May 7, 2014
Lakeshore Country Club

5:30 pm Founders' Day Ceremony,
Initiation of new members, and
Installation of 2014-2016 Alpha Alpha Officers
Member recognition

Dinner and a brief business meeting will immediately follow
the ceremonies.



REGISTRATION FORM

By April 30, please complete the form below, and send it with a check payable to **Alpha Alpha Chapter** for \$27.00 per person to Pam Eberhardt, 591 Scottsville-Chili Road, Scottsville, NY 14546. To learn more, contact her at 585-89-2754 or pamlynn@frontiernet.net.

Please select from the following meals:

Pasta: Creamy Farfalle w/ basil & sundried-tomatoes in alfredo sauce

Seafood: Lemon Broiled Haddock

Chicken: Home-style stuffed chicken breast w/ sage veloute

Each dinner includes salad, rolls, veggie medley, roasted potatoes, and dessert as well as coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and iced tea.

Name _____
Guest _____
Guest _____

(circle one) **Pasta** **Seafood** **Chicken**
(circle one) **Pasta** **Seafood** **Chicken**
(circle one) **Pasta** **Seafood** **Chicken**

Total (at \$27.00 each): _____

Newswheel

Alpha Alpha Chapter, Pi State,
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

April 2014

Judy Wadsworth, Editor
judithw@frontiernet.net

2012-2014 Alpha Alpha Officers

President	Donna Noble 377-0715
1st Vice President	Judy Wadsworth 442-4737
2nd Vice President	Karen Velyk 334-7795
Secretary	Pamela Eberhardt 889-2754
Treasurer	Anne O'Toole 637-6734
Parliamentarian	Sue Gentner 637-5103
Past President	

Alpha Alpha questions?
Seek answers at
<http://WWW.dkgalphaalpha.org>

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REGISTRATION Form

NEXT NEWSWHEEL DEADLINE: May 9

At any time, please forward items you'd like included in the *Newswheel* to the editor at the email address listed above.

<http://www.dkgalphaalpha.org>

President Cat-in-the-Hat reads to students.

Alpha Alpha President Donna Noble wore appropriate headgear (see photo at the right) on *Read Across America Day* as she read to kindergartners and 2nd graders at Pine Brook School in Greece. By all accounts, she and the students enjoyed themselves.



Remaining *Newswheel* deadlines

Publication of *Newswheel* is related to the chapter meeting schedule, to promote upcoming events and to report on those that have just occurred. The remaining *Newswheel* deadlines for this program year are May 9 and June 14.

Committee Chairs & Executive Board Members:

Save May 13 for the annual program planning meeting at The College at Brockport's Alumni House.