

Outstanding Chapter Programs

2019-2021

Arts, Music, and Humanities

Beta Gamma, District III

Program Title: *Let's Paint*

Noelle Friend-Schilke, an elementary art teacher, conducted a paint-pouring session that got everyone involved. Participants paid for the materials used and wore old clothes. Noelle explained the method of pouring paint and blending colors by swirling and forming shapes. Participants had the opportunity to engage in the program as students, created their own masterpieces to take home, and learned a new way to relax.

Gamma Alpha, District III

Program Title: *Summer Music Camp*

The Summer Music Camp hosted by Spivey Hall on the campus of Clayton State University provides an opportunity for children at the elementary and middle school levels to engage in a broad range of activities which emphasizes total musical development. Some campers need financial assistance in order to participate. Individual donations by chapter members and chapter designated funds allowed seven children to attend with full or partial scholarships. The children in each of the two sessions were involved in planning and executing a virtual project which was recorded for parents, college instructors, and Gamma Alpha members to view.

Alpha Theta, District IV

Program Title: *Authoring, Illustrating, and Publishing "Mr. Solesby's Shop"*

Amy Epps, author of the book "Mr. Solesby's Shop," shared the process of authoring, illustrating, and publishing a children's book. She led participants through the steps of writing the content of the book, collaborating with an illustrator for it, and getting it published. She shared lesson plans she and other teachers have developed based on her book and her website with additional information. The chapter purchased twelve books of Ms. Epps' books to place in the local primary and elementary schools.

DKG/UN Relationship

Beta Kappa, District II

Program Title: *Christmas Tea Bag / Women's Resource / Giving Closet*

Chapter members located in Georgia were mailed tea bags with a message about enjoying the tea in a special mug during the Zoom meeting. Nigerian members received their tea bag locally and received an email invitation. During the meeting, members had the opportunity to share the story about their special mug. A speaker from the Women's Resource Center in Decatur provided information about domestic violence, the work to assist women who are victims of abuse, and ways to support children in domestic situations. Members also heard about how donations to the Giving Closet helps homeless children in the area.

Educational Excellence

Beta Sigma, District II

Program Title: *Books for Keeps*

Books for Keeps provides free, new books to elementary students in Athens and surrounding communities. Students are able to select a dozen books at the end of each school year to enhance and encourage their reading throughout the summer and to decrease the reading downward slide that can take place over summer vacation. The chapter has supported Books for Keeps for years through donation of funds, donation of used books for the annual book sale fundraiser, sorting books into categories at the Books for Keeps warehouse, setting up book tables at the book sale site, helping students select new books, sharing the program with others in the community, and translating website information from English into Spanish for a wider population outreach. The pandemic changed the way that the books were distributed. Instead of setting up books in all of the elementary libraries, the children were able to select their books online. Books were collected by volunteers, bagged, and then given to selected sites for pickup.

Alpha Xi, District III

Program Title: *Preparing Sight Word Books*

Held at the local United Way office, the chapter program allowed members to put together small books that would be used in elementary classrooms to teach sight words to students. Three United Way employees welcomed members, explained what United Way did for schools, and then explained what they wished the members to do, provided the needed materials, and showed them how to complete the project. Members enjoyed the fellowship with each other, the sense of accomplishment, and the satisfaction of knowing that the books would help elementary teachers and students. If a chapter would enjoy a hands-on program, Alpha Xi highly recommends checking with United Way or similar organizations where volunteers are desperately needed.

Gamma Upsilon, District V

Program Title: *Preparing Items and Participating in the Leesburg Parade*

The chapter hosted a booth at the Leesburg Christmas Parade as a fundraiser to give a grant-in-aid scholarship. Members made Christmas wreaths at the November chapter meeting and provided additional items to be sold at the booth. Members interacted with customers on parade day, providing them with a better understanding of the role of DKG in promoting educational excellence. The event was successful; money was raised to assist a future educator in setting up her classroom, and participation in the community event raised awareness of DKG.

Global Awareness

Xi, District V

Program Title: *Solo Hope – Renewing Hope Globally through Purposeful Design*

Renee Van Gundy, Program Assistant and Events Manager, presented a program on Solo Hope, a non-profit organization which assists women in Honduras to provide for their families by selling handmade items around the globe. Renee explained how Emille Griffin, founder of Solo Hope, an American who traveled to the area, saw such a lack of hope in the lives of the ladies who lived there. These women longed to provide for their families but did not have the means to do so. There was such a need for jobs - jobs that gave hope and dignity. The journey began when she

joined with local artisans to create bracelets from pine needles and thread. The number of women artisans continues to grow and they now craft beautiful pine needle and thread jewelry, baskets, and coasters as well as trays, trivets, scarves, and more. Through this organization these women have the opportunity to pull their families and communities out of poverty. Their website, www.solohopehonduras.org, shows those interested how to become involved through giving, serving, and praying.

Hot Topics in Education

Beta Nu, District I

Program Title: *Education in Spite of Hardships*

The Boyce Ansley School, located in downtown Atlanta, serves homeless children. Founder Kate Kennedy spoke to the chapter, explaining her reason for starting the school, how she envisioned the school would operate, and information about the children and families it serves. Principal Kelly Wix spoke about the daily operation of the school. As a result of the program, the chapter has partnered with the school. Members have created “mailboxes” for students and have sent them letters and Christmas cards. The chapter supports teachers at the school as well.

Beta Eta, District II

Program Title: *Virtual Academy, Distance Learning, and Schools for Africa*

Vice-President Lisa Barnett introduced the virtual Beta Eta program. She was a second-grade instructor for the Virtual Academy, which serves students whose parents chose for them to learn virtually at home for the first semester. Ms. Barnett demonstrated how the students would log in and meet with their instructors and go through each day's lessons. Member Hilary Tatum, fourth grade in-person instructor, explained the distance learning format. Itslearning is the new platform used for all traditional students when unable to attend in person because of quarantine, snow days, etc. It also is the virtual program the student uses at home. Treasurer Nancy Teague gave a presentation on Schools for Africa. Beta Eta members contribute annually to this project. Ms. Teague explained the DKG partnership with UNICEF, Nelson Mandela, and Hamburg Foundations. A video was viewed from the DKG website. Since the meeting was virtual, DKG Schools for Africa brochures were previously mailed to members.

Delta, District IV

Program Title: *Learning about COVID-19 Impact in Classrooms – Sessions 1 and 2*

The first program consisted of an elementary teacher sharing how she had planned and implemented three different types of teaching during the first month of school: virtual, in persona, and combined instruction. During the Zoom meeting, she was able to share positives and negatives of each type of instruction. Then a college professor member shared how similar types of instruction occurs at that level. Questions from attendees led to the second program which focused on the impact at the high school level by a non-member and special needs students at Georgia Academy for the Blind by two members. A project emerged from the second program. The non-member presenter encouraged all attendees to take the time to write personal cards to any classroom teachers they know to uplift these teachers and let them know that their efforts are recognized and appreciated.

Personal / Professional Growth

Alpha Lambda, District III

Program Title: *PBIS – Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports*

Member Lynda Vaughn presented a program on PBIS – Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports. To begin the program, Lynda gave members a four-question handout to complete. She explained the PBIS framework which is at various levels of implementation in over 1,000 Georgia schools. Lynda related stories from her own school to better help our members understand PBIS, and members corrected their responses on the handout as she spoke. A question-and-answer session was included. The program provided information on a school-wide initiative and gave members who volunteer at schools a better understanding of behavioral interventions and supports.

Alpha Theta, District IV

Program Title: *The Life You Save May Be Your Own*

Kathi Cartee Davis, a nurse in the cardiac division of Piedmont Hospital in Athens, presented a program on heart care and heart attack prevention. She shared things we can do in our life to better care for the heart such as eating a balanced diet, understanding the good types of fat, and engaging in daily exercise. Kathi outlined the signs of a heart attack and what to do if you or someone you know is experiencing these symptoms. She also gave a demonstration of the correct way to perform CPR. Kathi brought goodies to hand out which included an exercise towel, pocket-size hand sanitizer, and a pamphlet on heart care. Alpha Theta chapter made a \$50 donation to the American Heart Association in Kathi's honor.

Alpha Omicron, District V

Program Title: *Meet Jonathan-Gray*

Alpha Omicron member Gray Kicklighter, a retired school psychologist and federal programs director, shared her Jonathan-Gray “story.” Gray related her life-long love of art nurtured by her mother and her use of art as a creative outlet. About 10 years ago, Gray began making hand-crafted jewelry with plans to return to painting. “It took tragedy to make me realize that we don’t have unlimited time and that I should not put anything off that I truly wanted to do,” she said. Her tragedy began with the illness of her husband. While in the hospital awaiting her husband’s liver transplant, Gray related, “We got a call that is every parent’s nightmare – our youngest son had died in a horrible accident.” Gray credits post-traumatic **growth** syndrome, a positive personality change following traumatic life events, for her renewed focus on using art to deal with grief and stress. Pottery became her new passion, and she chose the name “Jonathan-Gray Pottery” to honor her son. The program was concluded with Gray reading a poem about grief, “The Ugly Shoes,” and inviting members to join her in her journey towards growth and healing. “Remember that no matter how old you are, you can create. Making art is good for your health . . . and your soul.”