



Student Art On Display At February 10 Meeting

Sedina Capel To Present Issues In Special Ed

Sedina Capel, daughter-in-law of our own Vickie Capel, will be the featured speaker at Beta Gamma chapter's February 10 meeting. The meeting will be held at the Talbot County Chamber of Commerce beginning at 10:30 a.m. and concluding with a catered lunch.

A special education teacher who is currently working on an advanced degree, Sedina will speak to us about issues in special education. Also featured at the meeting will be a student art display coordinated by our own Mary Nell Podgorny as an early kick-off to Youth Art Month.

The federal "No Child Left Behind" legislation requires that all special education teachers, including special education teachers in Title I and non-Title I schools, be "highly qualified" by August 31, 2006. Special education teachers providing instruction in core academic content areas must have a requisite number of semester hours of college course work/professional learning units, must have a major in the content area, or must have passed the appropriate Praxis exam in order to be considered the teacher of record. Sedina's presentation will help us understand the current issues in special education in Georgia.

A special preview of the Youth Art Month exhibit will be available at the February meeting as well. Mary Nell Podgorny, an art teacher with Talbot County schools, is coordinating the early display especially for our meeting.

Following the meeting, a catered lunch featuring roast beef, baby limas, potato salad, bread, dessert, and beverage will be served. The cost is \$10 per person. Your contact person will be calling you to get your reservation for lunch. Please be sure to inform your contact person whether or not you are planning to eat. A member is expected to pay for her meal if she makes a reservation and then cannot

attend. Contact hostesses should call Sylvia Attaway by Thursday, February 1, with a count of those making reservations for lunch.


Directions

From the north on Georgia Highway 41: Continue southward into the city limits of Talbotton. After about a mile or so, you will come to a traffic light at the courthouse square (The courthouse will be on the right). There is one additional traffic light beyond the first one, and the Chamber building is the two-story building to the left just after the second light. Parking can be found around the square, as well as limited parking on the street in front of the Chamber building.

From Columbus on Georgia Highway 41: Traveling north, continue into the city limits of Talbotton, and the two-story chamber building is on the right at the first traffic light.

From Waverly Hall on Georgia Highway 208: Continue to Talbotton city limits; take a right at the first traffic light. The two-story Chamber building will be to the left of the next traffic light after you turn.





**The Delta Kappa Gamma Society
International Mission Statement**

To promote the professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education



Member Spotlight

Teaching Is Teal's Passion

Merle Teal never imagined herself becoming a teacher. The Thomaston native graduated from Upson-Lee High School in 1996 and headed off to Gordon College in Barnesville. She knew that science was her field. In the course of her studies there, she signed up for an education course. "I learned so much," she recalled. "I decided to teach science."

Merle went from Gordon to Columbus State University where she finished her bachelor's degree, and she's been teaching ever since. In her seventh year at Upson Lee Middle School, she has taught sixth grade earth science to all levels every year except one. That year she taught eighth grade science.

"I love teaching science. It's my passion," she said.

Early in her teaching career, Merle discovered that the majority of her students had never been to the ocean, although they were fascinated by its study. She began collecting ocean specimens to share with her students.

"They love it. I've added to the collection every year. I've got two more items ordered which should arrive soon," she said. She

is building other collections, too, including one of rock samples.

Merle makes the science units she teaches come alive for her students. "I try to go in-depth with explanations," she said. "A hands-on lab is part of every unit along with several other activities. Students use the internet and do virtual labs, and they participate in simulation-type activities."

Merle sees science as becoming an area of the curriculum that will receive more and more attention. "Students in Asia are doing well in science. It's even more important that our students excel in this area," she said.

She recalled an incident from her first year of teaching that she found disturbing. One of her students did not do well on a test. She discovered that he was having family problems that could have impacted his performance. She told the student that she would give him an opportunity to retest.



"He responded, 'Oh, no, Miss Teal, I made a high enough F.' I couldn't believe that he was

satisfied with that grade," she said. "I told him, 'No, you can do better.'"

Overall, though, she has been encouraged by her students' enthusiasm for the subject. Merle has found that there are lots of girls interested in earth science. Both her first and second years teaching she remembers two girls in particular who were especially inquisitive. Full of questions and interest, they not only fully participated in class but they would stay after school in a quest to find out more.

"Some people think that teaching is an easy job because students leave middle of the afternoon. When they tell me that, I tell them that I take stuff home with me. I spend weekends grading papers and planning for the next week," she said.

"Teaching is the toughest job you'll ever have," Merle gave as advice to anyone who is thinking about making a career in education. "But it's the most rewarding job you could ever have."



Member Address Updates

Miss Sylvia Attaway

1185 Spotted Fawn Drive
Box Springs, GA 31810

Mrs. Bethany Lucas

239 Lake Harding Drive
Hamilton, GA 31811-4349

And The Survey Says . . .



The Research/History Committee received a tremendous response to the survey conducted in the fall. Beta Gamma members will receive a printout of information about those who responded at the February 10 meeting.

Committees Invite Participation In Projects

What do Delta Kappa Gamma women want and need to remain in the education profession?

The **Research/History Committee** needs your participation in a survey being conducted by International which seeks to find the answers to this question. The one-page survey can be quickly completed at our February meeting. The survey asks each member to rank how significant each of the following is to her wants and needs in keeping her in the education profession.

- an active role in decision-making
- an active role in professional development
- control over schedule and time
- availability of new curriculum innovations
- availability of new evaluation/assessment techniques
- time to meet with support group of professionals
- availability of collegial mentors
- time to observe/collaborate with mentors/staff
- recognition for accomplishments
- technology training
- reimbursement for graduate courses needed to advance
- administrative support with discipline
- administrative support with parents
- opportunity to serve in leadership roles
- salary
- class size
- uninterrupted time in the classroom
- adequate materials and supplies
- community respect/support as a professional
- support to develop and implement programs
- standardized testing
- safe environment for teaching and learning

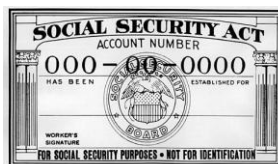
The **Women in Art Committee** is making plans to provide refreshments for an exhibit in celebration of Youth Art Month (YAM). The reception is planned for March 29 at 6 p.m. at the Talbot Chamber of Commerce.

Each member is asked to bring some type of non-perishable refreshments to the February meeting. Packaged cheese balls, cookies, crackers, chips, pretzels, mixed nuts, and bottled ginger ale are examples of the type of refreshments being requested. Homemade goodies that can be kept frozen can also be donated.

A national event held every March, YAM is designed to emphasize the importance of quality art education for all children. YAM was created in 1961 as a service to art educators and the public. The theme this year is *ART: Can you find the treasure?*



Two federal legislative petitions are being promoted by the **Professional Affairs/Legislative Committee**. The Social Security Fairness Act (HR



147) was proposed in a previous session of Congress. This legislation would protect Social Security benefits from being offset by insurance proceeds. Members are

urged to contact their senators and representative to express support for this bill.

A second bill, the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act (S 910 / HR 1849), will require insurance companies to cover a minimum 48-hour hospital stay for patients undergoing a mastectomy. It seeks to eliminate the “drive-through” mastectomy where women are sent home just hours after surgery.



Lifetime Television is sponsoring a petition drive through its web page. Members can show their support for the bill by going to the website, lifetimetv.com/health/breast_mastectomy_pledge. Only your name, zip code and email address are required.

The **Scholarship Committee** is in the process of setting up a formal set of guidelines for the annual grant-in-aid given by the chapter. The Manchester group is responsible for selecting this year’s recipient of the grant.

In a review of Beta Gamma’s by-laws, the Psi State Rules and By-laws Committee suggested that our chapter have a provision for filling vacancies in accordance with the International Constitution. The **Nominations Committee** seeks your suggestions for complying with this suggestion.

Music will be the focus of our April meeting which will be held in Manchester. If you have musical talents to share, let a member of the **Music Committee** know.

Committees Invite Participation In Projects *(Cont'd)*

The **Communications Committee** is soliciting entries for "Bits and Bytes" to be published in *Peachbytes*. Gloria Bienstock, a former Psi State president, compiles and edits this listing of "legends of excellence" who live one or more of the Seven Purposes. Nominations can be made in one of three areas: lingering legend, living legend, or emerging legend. Complete the information below (either here or on a separate sheet of paper), and give it to one of the Communications Committee members for submission to *Peachbytes*.



Name _____

Beta Gamma Chapter

Harris, Meriwether, Talbot,
and Upson Counties

District III

Legends of Excellence: Give one sentence to show how the chapter member you selected lives one or more of the Seven Purposes.

1. Lingered Legend _____

2. Living Legend _____

3. Emerging Legend _____

The **Personal Growth and Services Committee** continues to collect children's books for DFACS and Bingo prizes to be given to an area nursing home. Each member is asked to bring a book and an item that can be used as a Bingo prize to the February meeting.

The **Membership Committee** is gearing up for nominations of new members. Think of the women educators you know who meet the qualifications of membership in The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.

- Professional preparation
- Three or more years of experience
- Employed in educational work or retired from an educational position no more than two years
- Teach or live in the chapter area
- Professional proficiency
- Personal attributes such as initiative, tactfulness, enthusiasm
- Contributing member of the community

Nomination forms will be accepted at the April meeting. A vote on prospective members will be taken at the August meeting, and invitations for membership will be issued so that an initiation ceremony will be the focus of the October meeting.

Quick and Easy Fudge Pie

- 1 c. sugar
- 1/4 c. flour
- 4 heaping Tbsp. cocoa or 2 sq. chocolate, melted

Blend above ingredients, then add:

- 1/2 c. melted butter
- 2 whole eggs
- 1 tsp. vanilla

Pour into greased 9 inch pie plate. Bake at 350 degrees for 25 to 30 minutes. Cool. Place in refrigerator before serving. Dress up each serving of pie with a topping of ice cream or whipped cream and a fresh berry or a few chocolate chips for garnish. Make swirls of chocolate syrup on each plate and lightly dust the whole serving with a little sifted cocoa powder. Makes 6 to 8 servings.



From The Executive Board

You Must Be Present To Win!

The Beta Gamma Executive Board has proposed that a drawing be held for a \$25 restaurant gift card as an attendance incentive. If approved by the chapter, names of those in attendance at February's meeting would be put into the drawing. The drawing would be held in April with names of those attending that meeting added to those already in the "hat."

If approved, the drawing will be expanded next school year. Names of those in attendance at each meeting will be put into the "hat," and at the April 2008 meeting, two lucky names will be drawn, each receiving a \$25 restaurant gift card . . . but the member must be present to win. Plan to be at the February meeting to vote on this proposal.

Where, Oh Where . . . Has Our Table Scarf Gone?

Beta Gamma's table scarf, used in initiation ceremonies, has disappeared, and your help is needed to find it. The official scarf is red with gold Greek letters ΔΚΓ and gold fringe.

Since the scarf will cost \$300.25 to replace (\$275 for the scarf, \$19.75 in sales tax, and \$6 for shipping and handling), the Executive Board is initiating a

search and rescue operation to recover the cloth. Next year's membership dues will be paid for the member who finds the cloth and gets it to Yvonne Atkins, our Membership Committee chairman. It may have been left at the church where it was last used, and it may have been inadvertently stored in a closet or cabinet there.

Noteworthy News

This column is devoted to sharing information about our members, celebrating their joys and achievements and sorrowing with them in their difficulties and grief.

- ❖ Laurie Pate has returned from a diving trip to the Grand Cayman Islands. She is planning a ski trip to Utah soon.
- ❖ Frances McDowell is feeling adventurous. She plans a month-long cross-country trip to Montana in July.
- ❖ Wanda Renfroe has taken on extra duties; she is an assistant swim team coach.
- ❖ Bay Porter enjoys a telephone visit. A call would cheer her day.
- ❖ Keep our reserve members – Polly Hall, Marilu Goolsby, Ruth Hilton, Millie Jones, Nelle Middlebrooks, and Patricia Yeager – in your thoughts and prayers.
- ❖ Sylvia Attaway's mother died in October.
- ❖ Preston Goolsby, Marilu's husband, died January 19.
- ❖ Jill Harman's husband, Paul, recently won an award at an art exhibit.
- ❖ Charlotte Zuerner's family has two exciting upcoming events: daughter Melissa is engaged to be married and son Andrew and his wife Brooke are expecting in July.
- ❖ Sallie and Jim Mabon have purchased a cabin on a lake.



- ❖ Charlotte Zuerner's feet were featured in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* (Sunday, October 22, 2006, D3) in a write-up about the Cancer 3-Day walk in which she participated.

If you have news to share, please be sure to let Lynn Skinner know. One of the benefits of being in Beta Gamma is the support that we give each other personally and professionally.

