

# Alpha Upsilon Today



**Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Y2K! Can you believe that it's been twenty years since all the hype, preparations, questions, and anticipation of what was going to happen at the stroke of midnight! Most of us were in the thrust of our careers. We were surrounded by our co-workers, our working family, our support systems. Jumping forward twenty years- here we are now 2020! We are sisters together in DKG but are we doing what we 'signed up for'? Are we supporting each other? Are we supporting young women still in the classrooms? Are we encouraging new members to 'check us out'? We are now in the same perplexing situation that many organizations are in. We are not growing, we need to step up again! Right now, the way our chapter is working, we might not be around in two years! We don't have members stepping up to help keep this chapter running! I do realize that many of you have already filled the rolls of officers, but right now, we don't have anyone to move into the offices of 2VP, 1st VP. We are missing chairs for social, membership, communications, historical records, U S Forum and projects.



I know I am SO proud to be a member of this society, as are many of you! Won't you please reconsider your involvement and help to support 'us'??

## **Upcoming AU General Meetings**

**Saturday, March 14, 2020**

**10 am at Puckety Presbyterian Church**

**Program: March's Program: The Mental Health of Our Youth**

Today's youth experience pressures at a more intense level than just a few years ago. What are the signs something is wrong? Where can you turn to for help? You don't need to be in the classroom to make a difference... our youth is the responsibility of all us... it can happen to anyone at anytime... Our presenter, Emilie Greiner

**Also enjoy:** Covered Dish Brunch, Book Sale, Bake Sale,

**Wednesday, May 13, 2020**

**4:30 pm at Hill Crest Country Club**

**Program: What I found in My Mother's Skate Box?**

Come witness the journey of fellow DKG sister, Faith Jack as she shares her process of finding her roots. Faith traced her ancestors using various means, and oh the surprises along the way! Faith received a DKG grant last summer at state convention to keep exploring. Can't wait to see what she has learned...

**Also enjoy:** Grant in Aid Presentation, Visit from Eileen Little, DKG Pennsylvania State President

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## Why DKG?

By Barbara Gasperini



Barb with Annie Webb Blanton' picture in Austin at the DKG headquarters

Fifty-four years ago, as a Burrell High School senior, I was honored to receive a grant in aid from you, Alpha Upsilon. This key event, spanning many years, highlights a circle of leadership which emphasized the need for continued support and training necessary to maintain and develop skills. I had an interest for leadership since my high school and college days. I enjoyed meeting many varied individuals, being involved in outside activities, as well as personal development activities. These three areas (Friendship, Personal and Professional Development, and Activities) were a perfect match for DKG, and myself.

After I was honored with a membership to Alpha Upsilon, I asked myself why DKG. My leadership role continued in DKG when I undertook an officer's role in my local chapter eventually leading to President. I continued at the state level in committees and the officer's chairs until I became State President. Many members can go down this road and learn leadership skills that they can use in many parts of life. I learned many of these skills when I went to the Leadership Management Seminar, The Golden Gift; where I was taught self-discipline, compassion,

responsibility, perseverance and courage. There are many workshops you can attend at conferences and conventions that demonstrate many new ideas and skills offered by DKG. Understanding the needs and challenges of others leaders, exchange of ideas, and how to solve problems was highly rewarding. Investigate all the scholarships and grants that are offered by DKG. Members should take advantage of these wonderful opportunities for personal and professional growth.

In DKG, you meet amazing women that you may not be able to meet elsewhere. You can also develop and further relationships with new and existing members from our local chapter. What you learn from them you will never forget. They will show you honesty, loyalty and strength. How is this accomplished, by attending chapter meetings and the Pennsylvania State Conventions like this June 12-14, 2020 in State College. You can understand that this can broaden your understanding about what DKG means. You learn to communicate with all kinds of individuals. Communication is so important in all facets of life; in your professional and personal life. These communication skills are developed in DKG. Also try an International Convention especially in 2020 when it is in our home state of Pennsylvania in July 7-11, 2020 in Philadelphia. Please mark it down.

There are many activities such as traveling, Creative Arts Retreats, Purposeful Seminars, state and international choirs and Friday Night Flings that can add fun and frolic to your life in DKG.

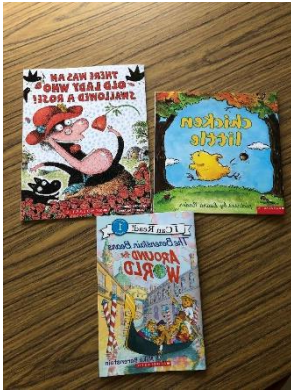
Invite that friend, colleague or acquaintance to our next gathering so she can see and hear for herself what we can do. Maybe invite her, and her friend together, because her friend has the same values as your friend does. She will probably attend the next event if she has someone to come with until she has met more people who make her feel comfortable in Alpha Upsilon. That is where we come in. There has to be someone out there who will make Alpha Upsilon stronger. Where is she? Please go find her. We need her so that we both benefit and become stronger.

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## **Scholastic Book Program Update** by Pam Derby



Our Book Bee has been busy delivering books to Mrs. Derby's class. The books above were November- Snowmen at Night, December- The Gingerbread Kid Goes to School, January - The Biggest Snowman Ever, February - There Was An Old Woman Who Swallowed A Rose, March - Berenstain Bears Around the World, and April- Chicken Little . The students thoroughly enjoy the stories. Only two, sometimes three, of my 20 students order their own books through Scholastic Book Clubs.

Scholastic had taken off the \$1 books from their flyers in November. Teachers have to go online to search for \$1 books. This is disappointing. Yes, it's harder for teachers to search for bargain books. However, this is a loss for families who can only purchase books at this price from the flyer. Many teachers across the United States have asked donors for funding to purchase class sets of books, which may have caused Scholastic to change their advertising and sale of \$1 books.

I am a part of a Facebook group, Fearless First Grade Teachers. In this group we encourage each other, vent frustrations, and share ideas. It was through here, that I found Scholastic was handling the purchase of the \$1 books differently and for limited amounts of time. As a result, I bought our books until April during the sale. Thankfully I could because all of your gracious donations at the beginning of the year.

My students have truly benefited from this program. I thank you all who have donated. I hope to do this again next year. Hopefully Scholastic will continue to work with teachers to help give students opportunities read books.

## **Leap Year Day Activity**

How did you spend your extra day this February? Six AU members got together on February 29<sup>th</sup> at the Logan's Ferry Presbyterian Church for Barb Summer's Presidential Project Linus. With the help of tea, coffee, apple breakfast bread and good conversation, the women pictured cut and knotted four blankets to be donated to help local children in times of stress. Special thanks to Barb for organizing and to Pam Derby, Judy Schaffer, Trish Cavanaugh and Jennifer McKay for donating fabric.



Jennifer, Pam, Barb, Trish and Judy with blankets. Not pictured, Betty Grossheim

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## **A Program You May Have Missed But Would Have Found Interesting**

### **STEM - Tour of Oberg Industry**



Oberg Industry opened their doors for a sneak peek of manufacturing in the 21 century. Members witnessed up close the expansion of industry to meet the needs of the growing medical community, manufacturing, transportation, military and items of everyday use. Our hosts provided details about their apprentice programs and work/education programs. These programs are open to both men and women of all ages with the appeal of no college debt. In addition, Oberg Industry has reached out into the schools to help students explore a career in

manufacturing by pushing into several area schools with careers in industry, Geometry in industry, and Mecatronics. The members had many questions as they toured the plant floor, where employees from all different aspect of the production described what the machines did and how this all fits together. Oberg Industries has several locations in the Sarver, Pa area

### **AU Book Club Update** by Mary Beth Yeamens

The DKG Book Club continues to meet on the third Wednesday of the month at the Starbucks closest to Mills Mall. During the month of December, we forego reading a book and opt to enjoy a lovely dinner. This past December we enjoyed a delicious meal and wonderful conversations at The Lot at Edgewater in Oakmont.

Throughout the year we try to choose a variety of books throughout the year, often making our choices from recommendations of bookstores, online sources and work of mouth. We are always happy to see a new face! Our book selection so far for 2020 are as follows:

- January: The Huntress by Kate Quinn
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## **STATE AND INTERNATIONAL DATES**

### **TO LOOK FORWARD TO:**

**June 12-14, 2020**

DKG State Convention at the Nittany Lion Inn

**July 7-11, 2020**

DKG International Convention at the Philadelphia Marriott

**July 12-16, 2020**

DKG Getaway Tour of New York City (See International Website for details)



### **Top 10 Reasons to Attend State Convention:**

**(not in any particular order)**

1. Enjoy the Nittany Lion Inn's comfortable rooms and tasty food, especially the chocolate dessert at the Saturday night banquet.
2. A chance to meet fellow teachers, both retired and working, from across the state
3. See fellow DKG members honored with the Women of Distinction award for recognition received outside of DKG. Will anyone from Alpha Upsilon receive a pin this year?
4. Great speakers who keep us up to date on educational issues
5. Friday night fling where you meet and greet members plus maybe win prizes!
6. Attend the Celebration of Life where our sisters who have died are remembered. This year we sadly include Kathy Varano.
7. Ice Cream at The Creamery. Should I get Peachy Paterno or Coffee Crunch?
8. Saturday night party in an AU member's room. –No jumping on the beds this year!
9. A chance to win a basket of goodies from over 40 baskets created by the chapters
10. Attend workshops on society business or interesting topics such as STEM, Gaming or Mindfulness

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## **Alpha Upsilon Profiles**

Since 1962 Alpha Upsilon has benefited from the enthusiastic support of many sisters. This issue's AU profile is one such dedicated member. Marsha Ewing has been a member of DKG since 1997 and became active right away. She has then served as chairperson of the Ways and Means committee, Social Committee numerous times, Bridge Flight, Retired Teachers, and World Fellowship. Along with Roseann Currence, Marsha served as First Vice President and President of the Chapter. Having attended most of the State Conventions, Marsha has served on state committees such as Membership, World Fellowship, and Nominating numerous times. She has also attended many international conventions.

Marsha attended Lower Burrell schools, then graduated from Grove City College with a degree in Spanish. She taught Spanish in the Penn Hills School District for 30 years, also sponsoring the very active Spanish Club. The Club learned Spanish, Mexican and South American culture through club meetings, field trips, and Cinco de Mayo celebrations. As a result of her teaching, Marsha had many students majored in Spanish in college. Now as adults, numerous former students keep in contact her and have become friends.

After retirement from public school, Senora Ewing continued teaching part-time at Blessed Sacrament in Natrona Heights for 12 years. Here she introduced middle school students to the Spanish language and culture through countless activities.

Marsha has been active in her community for many years. While teaching, she volunteered at the Penn Hills Service Association, but it was after her full retirement that she increased her volunteering dramatically. She currently is a docent at the Kerr House, taught ESL through the Literacy Council, volunteered at Animal Protectors and most recently received her 1000 hour pin for her volunteer work at Allegheny Valley Hospital. Her hours working total many more than 1000, though as she is currently chairing the Ways and Means Committee. During Marsha's tenure she led the 13 members of her committee to hold basket raffles, monthly lobby sales, a Festival of Trees, and Christmas Market. In 2018 her committee raised \$14,223.50 and in 2019 they raised almost \$16,000.00. These funds are used for items not budgeted by the hospital but improve patient care.



The Pucketos Garden Club in New Kensington also benefits from Marsha's hard work. Besides serving as past Vice President, in charge of programs and President, Marsha has organized the Poetry Contest for many years that has been held in the Valley Elementary Schools. There have been many winners of this contest that have gone on to win at the state level. It is a rewarding experience for local students and teachers alike.

In her "spare time" Marsha enjoys her dog Zoey, playing bridge, traveling and her many friends. This month she will be traveling to Israel after having been to Mexico, Spain, England, France, South America and many parts of the United States on other trips. When asked what DKG means to her she said: "Alpha Upsilon has been a significant part of my life and has improved it through the relations made and the projects takes on. My hope for Alpha Upsilon is that it continues to be a viable part of the life for many more teachers in the area."

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### **Reminder:**



Alpha Upsilon will be placing another Gift Card order before Easter...

Check out the expanded list (Don't see your favorite place give Barb Summers a call)

**All orders and Money due by March 18th!**

**Bring your order to the March Meeting!!!**

