



Gamma Mu Chapter

# GAMMA MU GAB

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International



Alpha Epsilon State

**VOLUME XLI ISSUE 3**

**February 2020**

CASS AND WHITE COUNTIES  
LOGANSPOUT & MONTICELLO  
INDIANA

ORGANIZED MAY 27, 1978

**The Delta Kappa Gamma  
Society International**

**promotes professional and  
personal growth of women  
educators and  
excellence in education.**

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### From the President...

The headlines read *“Not Every Teacher Saw Pay Increase”* in one newspaper and *“School’s in Session”* in another. I was wrapped in a blanket on a cold Sunday afternoon at the beginning of the legislative session catching up on my reading. We teachers are a hot topic, but sometimes I would like the Indiana legislature to just fix a few of its mistakes, give teachers an across the board raise, and then leave us alone.

The subtitle of the January 19, 2020 Kokomo Tribune article *“School’s in Session”* was *“With 50 Bills in the Hopper, Some Worry about ‘Top Down’ Approach to Education.”*

Already introduced were bills to provide flexibility for teacher training, flexibility for in-service, undoing the 15-hour workforce training requirement, and many, many more. There is even a bill to make working conditions a subject of discussion again. With all the bills in the hopper, there was not one serious bill for a pay increase for all teachers.

It has been said that Indiana teachers have received historic raises in the last two years.

The Indianapolis Star debunked that claim in the January 20, 2020 article *“Not Every Teacher Saw Pay*

*Increase”*. Yes, some teachers saw increases, but many more saw little or no increase.

Reporter Arika Herron noted that districts that did have money to pay increases, often did not give every



teacher a raise. An analysis of contracts showed that often the scale was stacked in favor of new teachers to attract them or stacked in favor of experienced teachers to keep them.

The article also noted an urban/rural divide in pay scales that some might explain away by a difference in the cost of living or by the level of teacher experience. I was saddened to see Frontier School Corporation listed as having the lowest average teacher pay in the state.

*(Continued – page2)*



*Making Impressions for the  
Future*

*Leading Women Educators  
Impacting Education Worldwide*

**From the President...***(Cont.)*

In the Star article, Paul Kaiser, superintendent of Beach Grove schools, is reported as saying he had to replace 25 teachers last fall and three teachers quit midyear. Both school corporations that I substitute in also had to replace three teachers mid-year. I know of other corporations with openings. Money may not be the only factor to leaving the field of education, but it is a major factor.

At the February meeting we focus on a political aspect of our profession. At the upcoming meeting Emma Groff will discuss new avenues to graduation as created by the state legislature. The presentation will be interesting. Our profession is political. During this session, and more, we should continue to promote our important role in the education of Indiana students by speaking out for respect, a seat at the table, and better pay for teachers.

Herron, Arika. "Not Every Teacher Saw Pay Increase." *The Sunday Star* [Indianapolis], 19 Jan. 20, p.1A+.

Loughlin, Sue. "School's in Session." *Kokomo Tribune*, 19 Jan. 20, p. A1+.

*Marsha Riggs*  
*President*

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### Literacy Project

We will once again be collecting new and gently used books, as well as magazines, at the October through May meetings. Please make sure your names have been deleted and any loose advertisements are removed from the magazines. Thank you in advance for your donations. They will be distributed to several laundromats and nursing homes in Cass and White Counties.

### Dates to Remember...

**February 5, 2020** - executive board meeting at Deb Corso's home at 5:00

**February 8, 2020**- February general meeting at Webb Chapel United Methodist Church at 9:00 am

**April 22, 2020** - deadline for GAB, send to Sally McAndrews at [kmacs97@comcast.net](mailto:kmacs97@comcast.net)

**April 26-28, 2019** -State Convention, Lawrenceburg, IN **April 25, 2020** -State Conference, Muncie, IN

**April 29, 2020** - executive board meeting at Penny Schaefer's home at 5:00

**May 2, 2020**- May general meeting at Monticello Christian Church

**June 9, 2020** - Summer Planning meeting at Psi Iota Xi Sorority Community House, Brookston

**June 13, 2020** - CCOT Workshop - North: Lebanon Central Christian Church

**July 7-11, 2020** - 2020 International Convention, Philadelphia, PA

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### Woman of Distinction

Congratulations to the following Gamma Mu member who is being recognized as Woman of Distinction. Great work!

#### Beth Myers

Beth was recently recognized after retiring from the Logansport Parks Board after 14 years of service. She will be greatly missed by the board.

### **General Meeting**

Saturday, December 14, 2019  
Calvary Presbyterian Church

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Marsha Riggs called the meeting to order and presented the thought for the day: "I will honor Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year." Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol*

**READING OF THE MINUTES:** Enjoy reading the minutes on page 3 of the GAB.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Ann Easter presented the report showing that as of Nov. 30, 2019, we had a cash balance of \$9,339.76. The Evelyn Davis Scholarship Fund has a balance of \$1,139.75.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** No correspondence at this time.

### **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

#### **Society Business**

**Membership:** Linda Morris welcomed the new initiates.

**Initiation:** Myrt Collins reported that everything went well.

**Literacy:** Ashley Brown and Jean Walker will distribute books and magazines to Literacy Volunteers and laundromats in White Co.

#### **Program of Work**

**Professional Affairs:** Rachel Mann and Cheryl Odle thanked everyone for helping organize the meeting.

**Music:** Carolyn Cassidy lead the music.

#### **Educational Services**

**Scholarship:** Carol Conrad stated that there will be information later in the year.

**Communications:** A big thank you to Sally

McAndrews. Great job on the GAB! We would love to hear from more of our members in the "Volunteer Spotlight".

**International Projects:** Marla Sellers provided ornaments for purchase to be given away to friends in exchange for a donation which will be given to schools in Guatemala.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Committees for new members: Karin Combs, Professional Affairs (Oct.); Ashley Culross, International Projects; Melissa Culver-Pekny, Personal Growth (May); and Courtney Long, Birthday Committee
2. Committee for reinstated member: Rosetta Rider, Founder's Day

**WOMEN OF DISTINCTION:** Amy Densborn, Cindy Leduc, and Beth Myers.

**Announcements:** We received the following awards: 2017-2019 Golden Key Award, 2018-2019 Five Star Newsletter Award, and the 2018-2020 Golden Key Awards.

### **Dates to Remember:**

February 5, 2020 - Executive Board meeting at Deb Corso's home, 5:00 p.m.

February 8, 2020 - General Meeting at Webb Chapel United Methodist Church 2550W 100N Logansport at 9:00 a.m.

April 25, 2020 - Indiana State Conference, Muncie, Indiana

Mary Lou Dawald, a retired teacher, presented "Travels with Eva Kor" as our program.

Susan Rodriguez, Recording Secretary

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

### **Karin Combs**

Karin Combs graduated from Ohio University in 1990 with a Bachelor's of Science in Communication and in 1997 with a Masters of Science in Education. She has served as a School Counselor at Pioneer Junior Senior High School, North Central (Indianapolis), and currently serves as Director of Guidance at Logansport High School. In 2003, 2005, 2007, she was recognized by a student as an Indianapolis Star Most Influential Educator and Most recently 2018 was chosen by a student at Logansport High School to receive the Pillar of the Community Award. She was honored to receive the awards.



Karin grew up in Chillicothe, Ohio where much of her extended still lives. She is married to Jeff Combs and they have one daughter Ann who is currently a freshman.

She has been a volunteer with Special Olympics and has served on the 4-H youth and Extension

She is a member of the American Association of School Counselors and the Indiana School Counselors Association. Karin is honored to become a member of Delta Kappa Gamma Society and is looking forward to future friendships and personal growth within the organization.

### **Ashley Culross**

Ashley Culross is currently teaching at North White School Corporation. She spent her first 3 years teaching at the elementary school in second grade but switched gears to middle school in the fall of 2018. Now she is currently teaching 6th and 7th grade math grinning about how she could never decide between elementary and middle school math while studying at Purdue University and now have experiences in both.



She currently serves on the PBIS, social, retention, and mentorship committees, a member Rural White County P.R.I.D.E, the Social Studies and Math Academic Coach, the 6th grade sponsor, and the member organizer of our Classroom Teacher Association working directly with UniServ Director Barb Deardroff.

Her biggest commitment outside of the students in her classroom is coaching! She's only known teaching with this extra commitment nearly year-round. She started coaching middle school cross country and middle school track until she got promoted her 3rd year to Varsity Cross Country coach and Head Middle School Track coach.

Coaching cross country coincides with one of her major hobbies of running. There may be 4 seasons in the year but to Ashley there are 3: Cross Country, Purdue Basketball, and Track. As a Purdue alumnus, she is very grateful to spend her free time between cross country in the summer/fall and track in the spring cheering on the Boilermakers!

### **Courtney Long**

Courtney Long was born and raised in Logansport, Indiana. She graduated from Logansport High School in 2007. She is in her 6<sup>th</sup> year of teaching at Landis Elementary in Logansport where she teaches Second Grade in the Dual Language program. She received a dual license in Special Education and Elementary Education at Indiana State University. She is currently in Graduate school at Purdue University for her EL license and Dual Language certificate. She loves being involved with her school and does so by being the PTO President. She coaches cheerleading at Logansport Junior High and at Landis. She is also involved with United Way of Cass County as the Public Service Chair. She might look familiar to you if you enjoy a dip or two of Sycamore Ice cream. She has been a soda – jerk for over 15 years! She looks forward to getting to know all of you!



**Look for information on our other new member, Melissa Culver-Pekny, in the next edition of the GAB.**

## February Meeting

The February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of Gamma Mu Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International will be held at Webb Chapel United Methodist Church, Logansport.

Coffee hour and committee meetings will begin at 9:00 a.m., with a delicious brunch and Founder's Day presentation to follow.

Teri Roska will lead the Founders' Day program, connecting us with leading women educators who had such a tremendous impact on all of us. The program will make us feel connected and proud of the strong teachers that paved our way.

The program "Career Paths: New Routes to Graduation" will be given by Emma Groff. Emma is the Student Counselor at Pioneer School Corporation. She will discuss new avenues to graduation that were created by the state legislature.

Amy Densborn and Sandy Thompson, co-chairmen, would like to thank their committee, who once again did an outstanding job in preparing for the meeting.

## Volunteer Spotlight

Bonnie Sonafrank volunteers for the United Way of Cass County by reading each month in Mrs. Farrer's class at Lewis Cass Elementary. After enjoying a book, the students enjoy a craft and a special treat. Bonnie also volunteers with the VITA program at United Way of Cass County. VITA stands for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance. This program assists eligible taxpayers in satisfying their tax responsibilities by providing tax return preparation. She also enjoys spending memory day with the fourth graders on Wally, the Big Red Bus of Weekday Religious Education.

## Congratulations are in Order!

### For Cathy Herrell -

Cathy Herrell recently retired for the second (or is it the third) time. She retired from the Logansport Public Library. Cathy will be traveling more often and visiting her daughters more often. Congratulations Cathy.

### For Teri Roscka -

Teri Roscka won on the *Wheel of Fortune* the evening of January 19. Please do not ask her for a loan because the taxman cometh. Teri should have some interesting stories to tell about her experiences on the program.

## DKG Program Book Updates

New Members, Program Book Information  
(Clip and add to your book)



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