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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF
THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL
TO THE UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND
THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

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This past January saw changes in Delta Kappa Gamma's group of NGO representatives at the United Nations. Our number has now grown to eight, and some of the responsibilities have shifted. Phyllis Hickey (TX), who became the Operation Services Administrator at International several years ago, has resigned from her position as one of our NGO reps. Our two new reps are Cathy Daugherty (VA), the contact person for the Schools for Africa program, and Joan Goldstein (NY), who has been working with CTAUN. Grace Murphy (NY) is our new Primary Representative, succeeding Rita King (NY), who held that position for the past several years. In light of their responsibilities, both Cathy and Grace are members of the Educational Excellence Committee. Readers will find a complete list of the NGO reps and their responsibilities at the bottom of the last page of each issue of this Newsletter. Our best wishes go to all the members who have served the Society in this capacity or are now beginning to do so.

The four months that have passed since we published Issue Number 20 of this Newsletter have seen no fewer than three CTAUN conferences, with a fourth scheduled for this coming April 2 in Austin, Texas. The Indianapolis conference, co-sponsored by Kappa Delta Pi, successfully took place on November 6, 2010. CTAUN members were happy to be able to arrange for a conference at the United Nations this past January 14, in spite of renovations still underway on the premises. Most recently, the fourth annual Atlanta conference took place on February 5.

This issue opens with an update on the Schools for Africa Program, followed by articles that spotlight aspects of the UN and Atlanta CTAUN conferences and provide information about the Austin conference. Finally, we would like to bring to the attention of our readers the fact that the United Nations has declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests, and we have provided some suggested educational activities and resources.

SCHOOLS FOR AFRICA UPDATE

Cathy Daugherty (VA), who had previously served as chair of the special sub-committee that selected Schools for Africa as the Society's new service project, is currently the contact person and facilitator for the project. Cathy reported that over \$9,000 has been donated to Schools for Africa since July 2010, when it was voted an official Society project at the International Convention in Spokane. The first donation came from Germany, one of the countries instrumental in working with UNICEF initially on establishing the Schools for Africa Project in 2004.

One of Cathy's goals is to publish a series of "Newsettes", which would serve to highlight the fund-raising activities of individuals, chapters and state organizations, as well as provide information about the countries in which the Schools for Africa Program is currently working. The first two issues of the Newsette may be found posted on the International website (dkg.org)

by clicking on the icon for Schools for Africa. There is also additional information about the project and a U.S. Fund for UNICEF brochure that includes a form for submitting donations.

DKG UN LIAISONS MEET AT CTAUN CONFERENCE AT THE UNITED NATIONS

Because the members of our group of NGO representatives were all present for the CTAUN conference “Achieving the Millennium Development Goals: Teaching for Action” held at the UN in January, most of us were able to get together for dinner on the evening before the conference to welcome and become better acquainted with our new members. In addition, a meeting was arranged at lunchtime on conference day with Cathy Daugherty for those UN Liaisons from the state organizations who were attending the conference. The Liaisons present were Linda Dix (NJ), Liz Brewer (PA), and Luvenia George (DC), along with other state officers and members who accompanied them, and all present had the opportunity to discuss with Cathy their views on how state organizations could participate in the Schools for Africa Project.

We were honored that our International President, Dr. Jensi Souders, and Corlea Plowman, Executive Director, were able to be present at our lunch as well. President Jensi took the opportunity to speak briefly about the Educational Excellence Committee, and state officers were able to become better acquainted with those from International.

The conference itself opened with an inspiring keynote speech by Nicholas Kristof, who also autographed copies of his recent book *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*, co-authored with his wife Sheryl WuDunn. The closing event was a performance by the United Nations Singers (unsrcsingers.org), a group of UN staff members “Making Music for MDG 2—We raise funds through concert fees and individual donations to help finance projects that improve the educational prospects for children around the world....” A detailed summary of conference proceedings can be found on the CTAUN website (teachun.org).

CTAUN CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN AUSTIN

The Committee on Teaching About the United Nations (CTAUN) is co-sponsoring a conference with Delta Kappa Gamma in Austin, Texas, to be held on April 2, 2011. The theme of the conference is: “Global-Local Partnerships for the 21st Century: A UN Collaborative.” Registration information is available on the CTAUN website (teachun.org) and a link is also provided on the DKG website (dkg.org).

Guest speakers from the United Nations will join with local experts in content-rich presentations – keynote addresses, panel discussions, and break-out workshops – on topics related to social justice, sustainability, and current educational trends. The keynote addresses will be presented by Ramu Damodaran and The Honorable Teta V. Banks as described below:

Ramu Damodaran is Deputy Director for Partnerships and Public Engagement in the United Nations Department of Public Information’s Outreach Division, with specific responsibility for the “Academic Impact” Initiative, and creating partnerships with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academic and private sector constituencies and the general public. A native of India, he has had long time service within the Indian government and prior to this worked extensively in Indian mass media, including print publications, television as a news anchor and radio as a disc jockey, winning the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union Prize for “Echoes of a Generation.”

The Honorable Teta V. Banks is an educator, writer, civil rights advocate and diplomat. Appointed Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Liberia in 1993, she continues to represent Liberia, assisting in the rebuilding of that war-torn nation, addressing human rights issues, and establishing trade and cultural relations with the other African nations and the United States. A member of the World Affairs Council, the UN Association, a charter member of the Women's International Leadership Association, she is the recipient of numerous awards for humanitarian service and civil rights advocacy.

The names and affiliations of panel presenters and breakout session moderators, along with registration information, can be found on the CTAUN website (teachun.org).

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ATLANTA CONFERENCE by Joan Goldstein

On February 5, 2011, CTAUN held its fourth annual Atlanta Conference, "Educating for Action: The United Nations as a Resource," at Georgia State University College of Education. The Conference Co-Chairs were Cynthia Brown and Hanna Fowler of the Atlanta Steering Committee. They worked under the leadership of Anne-Marie Carlson and Carolyn Donovan of CTAUN. The event turned out to be quite a success.

The morning keynote address was presented by Steve Hollingworth, Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President of Global Operations for CARE, who explained that there are over one billion people globally who suffer from malnutrition and described how the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are "game changers in addressing poverty." An overview of the MDGs was presented by Henry "Chip" Carey (GSU). The presenters on the morning panel then provided overviews of the topics that would be discussed in more detail in the lunchtime breakout sessions: poverty and hunger; the need for universal education; global health; problems with sex trafficking; environmental sustainability; global partnerships, and gender equity, women's rights and the struggle for peace; and issues related to immigrant students. All the speakers stressed that the attainment of the MDGs were interrelated, each goal dependent on the other.

Each presentation was followed by a question and answer period. Audience participation added to the depth of the topics discussed. Most engaging were questions and personal statements posed by the foreign exchange teachers who are presently attending Georgia State University. Their contributions also enhanced the relevancy of topics discussed in our breakout sessions in the afternoon, which allowed additional time to explore the issues of each of the five MDGs under discussion. The presenters brought useful materials that would provide background information and curriculum ideas for teachers. The conference then re-convened with representatives from each breakout session reporting on their group's findings.

Finally, Cora Weiss, President of the Hague Appeal for Peace, as the closing keynote speaker addressed the entire auditorium on her personal involvement internationally over the years with women's efforts and their accomplishments for equality, peace, and security. Her address was truly inspirational. A detailed summary and photographs of the conference are posted on the CTAUN website (teachun.org).

THE UN INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FORESTS: RESOURCES FOR EDUCATORS

On February 2, 2011, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests "to raise awareness on sustainable management, conservation and sustainable

development of all types of forests” (un.org/en/events/iyof2011/). There are a number of ways in which educators and groups such as Delta Kappa Gamma chapters can celebrate this year.

Under the *Plant for the Planet: Billion Tree Campaign*, people, communities, organizations, business and industry, civil society and governments are being encouraged to plant trees, provided with directions for doing so, and may enter their tree planting pledges on this web site (unep.org.billiontreecampaign). The objective is to plant at least one billion trees worldwide each year. The idea for this campaign was inspired by Professor Wangari Maathai, Nobel Peace Prize laureate for 2004 and founder of Kenya’s Green Belt Movement (greenbeltmovement.org), which has planted more than 30 million trees in 12 African countries since 1977. When a corporate group in the United States told Professor Maathai it was planning to plant a million trees, her response was: “That’s great, but what we really need is to plant a billion trees.” She was later invited to speak to the UN General Assembly when the International Year of Forests was inaugurated. A few books for background reading are suggested below.

Maathai, Wangari. *Unbowed: A Memoir* (2007).

The Greenbelt Movement: Sharing the Experience, (2003).

Giono, Jean. *The Man Who Planted Trees*. Wood engravings by Michael McCurdy.

White River, VT: Chelsea Green Publishing Company, 1985.

This is the story of a fictional character who devoted himself to re-forestation of the French countryside during World War I and World War II. It provides a thematic illustration of the power of one individual to make change.

Nivola, Claire A. *Planting the Trees of Kenya: the Story of Wangari Maathai*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Winter, Jeanette. *Wangari’s Trees of Peace*. Harcourt Children’s Books, 2008).

These two titles are biographies in picture book format. When Maathai returned to Kenya from her years of college in America, she was distressed to see how, as more and more land had been cleared to grow food for export, the landscape was becoming increasingly barren and the people hungry. She started a movement—Kenya’s Green Belt Movement—with the women, and then the children, to restore the land by planting seedlings that would grow into trees. Since then, over thirty million trees have been planted in Kenya. (Upper Primary-Early Intermediate)

YOUR UN REPRESENTATIVES

The members of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International listed below are your official representatives at the United Nations Department of Public Information and the Economic and Social Council. Most of them also work with CTAUN. You can email us for further information.

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