

DKG@UN

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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It is a pleasure for your Delta Kappa Gamma NGO representatives at the United Nations to bring you another newsletter that highlights ways in which members of DKG are impacting education worldwide. In some cases they do this in the name of the Society. In other cases they act as an individual reaching out to other individuals. We hope you will both enjoy and be inspired by the stories below. As this is the first issue to come out since the start of the current biennium for state organization presidents, however, we begin with an open letter to them.

AN OPEN LETTER TO STATE ORGANIZATION PRESIDENTS

Your NGO representatives at the United Nations take this opportunity to send our congratulations to the state organization presidents elected for the 2011-2013 biennium. We hope that you have already become familiar with this newsletter, through which we circulate information about our activities at the United Nations and about some of the ways in which members of the Society are reaching out to women and children in developing countries. We urge that every state organization president appoint a member to be that state's UN Liaison. When each issue of this newsletter comes out, it is emailed to all state organization presidents. However, the appointment of a UN Liaison relieves the president of the tasks of continuing the mailing chain on to chapter presidents and of forwarding other information to members about our Society's activities related to the United Nations. Please send the names and email addresses of those appointed as Liaisons to the Newsletter Editor and UN Liaison Facilitator, Margaret Anzul (manzul@optimum.net).

ANNE-MARIE CARLSON: SECOND TERM AS VICE-CHAIR OF THE NGO/DPI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

In October 2009 this newsletter reported that Anne-Marie Carlson's participation in various UN Department of Public Information (DPI) activities had led to her recently being elected as Vice-Chair of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, which represents over 1400 NGOs around the world associated with the DPI. She is now in the middle of her second term in this position. Anne-Marie's other recent positions on the Executive Committee have been those of Chair of Bylaws as well as member of the Outreach, Fundraising, and Future Conference Site Development sub-committee. It is her responsibility to substitute for the chair when necessary at UN functions. She has also served as presenter/organizer of Executive Committee sessions at the NGO/DPI annual conferences in Paris (2008), Mexico City (2009), Melbourne (2010) and Bonn (2011). (To see the listing of officers of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, go to www.ngodpiexecom.org and click on Committee.)

In these various activities, Anne-Marie comes in contact with many members of NGOs from all parts of the world. This means that people who might otherwise be unaware of Delta Kappa Gamma learn of its existence, its mission, and its various activities as she goes about her work. The same is also true when the Society's other NGO representatives are engaged in various activities at the UN. The work that these members do as a result of the Society's affiliation with the UN is certainly another way in which Delta Kappa Gamma impacts education worldwide.

**64th ANNUAL UN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION NGO CONFERENCE
IN BONN, GERMANY, 3-5 SEPTEMBER 2011
By Jacqueline A. Abbott, Ed.D.**

Over 1300 NGO delegates from 70 countries gathered in Bonn in early September for the 64th DPI/NGO annual conference, which had the theme "Sustainable Societies; Responsive Citizens." The conference opened with a message from Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who stated, "We have to be prepared to make major changes...in our lifestyles, our economic models, our social organization, and our political life." In the conference statement posted on the United Nations website (www.un.org/wcm/content/site/ngoconference/conference/vision), the Secretary-General was quoted as stressing the need for "tearing down the walls between the development agenda and the climate agenda... we need to connect the dots between climate change, water, energy and food; and recover that sense of living harmoniously for our economies and our societies."

Three of Delta Kappa Gamma's NGO representatives attended the conference: Grace Murphy (NY), our primary representative; Anne-Marie Carlson (NY); and I, Jacqueline Abbott (CT) joined with hundreds of other conference attendees to listen, speak out, and affirm the "Declaration of the 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference." The three days in which we met were intensive, involving, and at times we experienced information overload. For me, I was hearing concepts that were new, terribly exciting and hopeful.

The conference met in three types of venues. First were the general sessions, in which the big picture was presented. Second were roundtables, in which four or five individuals spoke to an aspect of such major themes as: "Designing the Transition to Sustainable Societies: The Role of Education in Engaging Citizens"; "Helping Farmers and Community Forest Managers Adapt to a Changing Climate"; or "Re-assessing the Role of Young People in Tackling Climate Change". Finally, there were the workshops, which for me were the most practical and inspiring and which helped us see how the implementation of goals for a sustainable society might be attained. There was a strong and vocal youth presence, which I found refreshing. These young people were passionate and ready to go to work to make the desired changes.

Finally, the *Declaration of the 64th UN DPI/NGO Conference* was presented at the closing ceremony. The document notes that the Bonn conference was also looking forward to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development ("Rio + 20") in Rio de Janeiro, 4-6 June 2012, that will be "addressing new and emerging challenges that include the themes of green economy in the context of poverty eradication and sustainable development...." (For the complete text of the Declaration, see www.un.org/wcm/content/site/ngoconference.)

CTAUN CONFERENCES ANNOUNCED FOR 2012

3 February 2012 Annual CTAUN Conference at United Nations Headquarters in New York

The theme of the 2012 CTAUN Conference at the UN is “Education IS a Human Right.” The United Nations first articulated the right to education in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Article 28 stipulates that everyone has the right to a free and compulsory elementary education. Over the last 63 years, many international agreements have built upon this base to assure that governments commit to and meet their obligations to realizing the human right to education. Yet, worldwide today, it is estimated that 69 million children are not in school and approximately one adult in six is unable to read or write. CTAUN’s UN conference this year will investigate the many causes of this disparity, and the focus will be on how access to and quality of education can steadily improve the learning experience for all peoples.

CTAUN invites you to see yourself as a human rights defender and join us at the United Nations on 3 February. Continue to check the CTAUN website (teachun.org) for conference program and registration information and nearby hotel accommodations.

17 March 2012 CTAUN Atlanta Conference

The theme of the CTAUN conference to be held in Atlanta is “Water: Global and Local Challenges.” It is scheduled to be held at the College of Education, Georgia State University. Additional information will be posted on the CTAUN website (teachun.org) when available.

“EDUCATING GIRLS”: MEMBERS IN CALIFORNIA HEAR UNICEF SPEAKER

Dr. Changu Mannathoko, UNICEF’s Senior Policy Advisor for Education, was the featured speaker at a luncheon meeting last October 5 sponsored by the US Fund for UNICEF at the InterContinental Hotel in Los Angeles. In attendance were Sandy Rushing, California (Chi State Organization) President, together with Judy Kearns, California State Organization First Vice President and Susan Hamilton, California Area XIII Director.

Describing their experiences at this event, Sandy wrote that Dr. Mannathoko “spoke to us about the importance of schools providing not only an educational experience but also a life experience. The students learn not only that education is important, but also that education provides self-esteem and self-worth. Each child is ensured access to a right-based quality education that is rooted in gender equality, and a ripple effect of opportunity is set in motion to positively impact many generations to come.”

Information was provided about the Schools for Africa Campaign, founded with UNICEF in 2004 by Nelson Mandela to promote education for all children in Africa, and Sandy said that “Dr. Mannathoko discussed the opportunities for people to support Schools for Africa,” and particularly emphasized the fact that “when students begin to be educated they also have the safety and stability to feel okay about themselves and have the courage to take steps to protect themselves against AIDS and other diseases.”

The event was part of “UNICEF Saving Children: A Speakers Series,” provided by the Los Angeles office of the US Fund for UNICEF. Sandy, Judy and Susan said they found the entire

presentation very exciting and interesting and have already established a contact for a UNICEF speaker to give a presentation at an Interest Session at the Chi State Convention in May 2012.

(Please see the “Resources for Global Understanding” section below for additional information about US Fund for UNICEF regional offices in different cities in the United States.)

A “SCHOOLS FOR AFRICA” UPDATE

Seven issues of the *Schools for Africa Newsette* are now posted on the International website (www.dkg.org). Cathy Daugherty, who, as sub-committee chair for the International Educational Excellence Committee is the contact person for Schools for Africa, reports that over \$30,000 has already been contributed to this campaign. At last count, 23 percent of state organizations reported that contributions were being made by chapters within their state. The website also provides a new brochure to use when making contributions to the US Fund for UNICEF, as well as additional background information about the project. DKG members around the world can directly contribute via a new link set up by UNICEF at www.unicefusa.org/donate/dkg.

Our readers may find the lead articles in Issue 6 and Issue 7 of particular value in encouraging Society members to contribute to Schools for Africa. Issue 6 presents information about what percent of contributions to Schools for Africa actually go directly to the program. The total is a very impressive 94%. Issue 7 explains the different ways of sending in contributions and how to contribute if you wish to receive an individual acknowledgment. Beginning with the February issue, each *Schools for Africa Newsette* has focused on a different country that is benefiting by this project, and powerpoints for some countries are also posted on the International website.

EDUCATORS REACHING FROM MASSACHUSETTS TO KENYA

By Pamela Romano

I am a Delta Kappa Gamma member who lives in Rhode Island but belongs to the chapter in Fall River, Massachusetts. After retiring from a 35-year career in the Fall River Public Schools, I joined in the efforts of an organization started by a colleague, William Molloy. This organization is the Africa Teacher Foundation, and our work has been primarily in Nairobi, Kenya.

Our foundation travels to Kenya each year, and through a very organized system we bring teachers in from the slums of Kenya, and this year from Tanzania as well, to a central location and provide professional development for them in a variety of areas. These include, but are not limited to, differentiated instruction, educational approaches, analysis and instruction in reading, and mathematics. This past June we hosted our fourth professional development workshop, and in addition we have funded local professors in Nairobi to conduct workshops during the year. This year the workshop presenters from the US also visited schools of previously trained teachers to observe the techniques taught.

Our foundation is non-profit. We conduct fund raisers through the year to glean contributions in an effort to make this worthwhile undertaking a reality. The people traveling from the United States give freely of their time and talents. Our costs include travel for the US professionals and food and transportation for the teachers attending the workshops. Lodging and the site for the US professionals has been graciously provided by the International School of Kenya in Nairobi. I was a presenter during the first year of our work, 2008, am currently serving as treasurer of the Foundation, and hope to go back to Kenya again. Readers who would like have additional

information or to participate in this work are invited to be in touch with me at promano@fullchannel.net.

RESOURCES FOR GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING

US Fund for UNICEF Regional Offices and Website Offerings (www.unicefusa.org). This website provides general information about UNICEF and the various activities in which it is currently involved. It also tells about the US Fund for UNICEF, its activities and the opportunities it provides for volunteers. The main office is in Manhattan, with five regional offices in other cities across the US: Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, and Los Angeles. Readers in those areas may be interested in exploring events presented by the regional offices, as the members in California did for the event in Los Angeles with its focus on Schools for Africa. (On the website Home Page, click on About Us, and scroll down the menu to Regional Offices).

What's Going On? is an award-winning series of ten videos produced by the UN Works Programme, administered by Carmel Mulvany. Each video is presented by a different well-known personality, including Susan Sarandon, Richard Gere, Angelina Jolie and Michael Douglas. Each tells the story of children in crisis in a different part of the world. Among the titles are "Child Soldiers in Sierra Leone," "Girls' Education in India," "Street Children in Mongolia," and "Poverty in America." See the UN Works website (www.un.org/works) for related lesson plans and activities as well as a link for ordering information (www.socialstudies.com/wgo).

Nicholas Kristof's Blog. Attendees at the CTAUN Conference at the UN last January found vignettes of women and children in different parts of the world presented by the morning's keynote speaker, Nicholas Kristof, to be eye-opening, at times inspiring, and at times heart breaking. His columns in the New York Times often tell about tragic situations he sees in various parts of the world. By following Kristof's blog (www.nytimes.com/ontheground) readers can find out how to help those in need he writes about, and on September 29, 2011, a column titled "Just Look at What You Did!" tells what happened as a result of one such outpouring of aid.

Girlup.org. The Girl Up Campaign is sponsored by the UN Foundation. The website describes agencies Girl Up works with to support programs for adolescent girls as part of the UN Adolescent Girls Task Force. A program on the PBS NewsHour on August 9, 2011, focused on ways in which teens in the US can be connected with girls in developing countries.

YOUR UNITED NATIONS 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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