

# ALPHA XI NEWS

## DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL XI STATE

THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL PROMOTES PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL  
GROWTH OF WOMEN EDUCATORS AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION.



Volume 14 Issue 6

March 2017

### Alpha Xi Celebrates 60 Years



Beverly Smith opens the program for the 60th Birthday Celebration

Alpha Xi celebrated 60 years of service this February. More than 40 Alpha Xi members and guests were treated to a program of reflection, wonderful food, and of course, birthday cake! The room was expertly decorated in a teapot theme, the ultimate symbol of fellowship, by Jeanette Esch. Beverly Smith opened the program and welcomed guests.

The program allowed members to reflect on Alpha Xi's humble beginning and share in the collective memory of the ladies who have served and made the chapter what it is today. The history of the twelve ladies whose determination and sacrifice brought Alpha Xi into existence was given special note and a time of memorial was included to honor those who've passed. Keynote speaker, Dr. Jensi Souders, thrilled the members with memories of her mother, Dot Peck, a charter member, as she shared stories from those early years. The recognition of members with certificates noting milestones of years of membership highlighted the continuity of this strong chapter.

### NEXT MEETING

**Thursday March 16th**

**Tour of the Fourth Floor**

PLACE:

Downtown Public Library

1001 Broad St,

Chattanooga, TN 37402

TIME: 5:15

MENU: Light snacks: finger sandwiches, fruit, veggies, tea.

COST: None. Food is provided by the Education Excellence Committee.

RSVP: Please contact Ann Pinion at [anpinion@epbfi.com](mailto:anpinion@epbfi.com) by **March 11** if you are planning to attend.

PROGRAM: We will be touring the Fourth Floor of the Public Library. The Fourth Floor is an innovative space that exemplifies the new direction of libraries and media centers. You don't want to miss this opportunity!

## Alpha Xi's 60th Birthday Party Pics

Suzanne Rushworth shared the following poem during the memorial

A builder built a temple,  
He wrought with grace and skill;  
Foundation, pillars, arches,  
All fashioned to work his will.

A teacher built a temple  
With loving and infinite care,  
Planning each arch with patience,  
Laying each stone with prayer.

None praised her unceasing efforts,  
None knew of her wondrous plan,  
For the temple she was building  
Was unseen by the eyes of man.

Gone is the builder's temple  
Crumpled into the dust;  
Low lies each stately pillar,  
Food for consuming rust.

But the temple the teacher  
fashioned will last while the ages  
roll.

For that beautiful, unseen temple  
Was a child's immortal soul.

*(author unknown)*



# President's Message

## Building a Legacy

What a wonderful event we shared on Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> when we celebrated Alpha Xi's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday! From beginning to end it was a great day. Thank you to everyone who worked to make it a success. There were key people who headed up the organization of the event, but that's not all. Members came early to help with set up and members stayed late to help with clean up. Our attendance was phenomenal and I thank you for making the effort to be there that day.

As Suzanne read the names of Alpha Xi members who have passed away, it was a very moving experience for me and I've only been in Alpha Xi less than ten years. I can only imagine how that part of the program touched the members who have been a part of the chapter much longer. It made me think about the legacy that these ladies left for us. Alpha Xi is known for being a welcoming chapter, for participation on a large scale, for excellent programs, for its giving membership, and for doing things well. In Alpha Xi we don't ask ourselves if something is "sufficient". We ask ourselves what can be done to make things even better!

Now we are the ones building the legacy for future Alpha Xi members. Let's build on the tremendous foundation laid by our predecessors and make the Alpha Xi legacy even stronger. How can we do that? Here are some suggestions:

**Make it a priority to attend meetings.** We build on our relationships with each other every time we're together. Do you ever stop to think about the amazing women whose lives have crossed paths with yours through DKG? Come and cultivate those relationships!

**Participate in meetings.** Volunteer to give the inspiration or to help with decorations. Help plan a mixer to share during the "social time". Speak up during discussions and share your opinion.

**Make suggestions for programs and/or projects.** Perhaps you'll want to share your expertise in a certain area or recommend a program that you think will appeal to Alpha Xi members. Have an idea for a great service project? Suggest that to one of the officers. They would welcome your ideas!

**Spread the good news about DKG with others.** The future of Alpha Xi depends on the growth of the membership. Invite others to come to meetings with you. Please don't say, "I'm retired so I can't help with that." Look around you....at school, at church, in your neighborhood, in community organizations. Give others the opportunity to share the DKG experience.

What does the next decade hold for Alpha Xi? Only we can make that determination. No one can build the Alpha Xi legacy by herself; it will take all of us working together to insure a bright future based on a firm foundation. Don't you want to be a part of that? I hope you'll answer with a resounding "YES!" After all, WE ARE ALPHA XI!!



## Alpha Xi Officers 2016-2018

President

Beverly Smith

[bevsmith88@hotmail.com](mailto:bevsmith88@hotmail.com)

First Vice President

Suzanne Rushworth

[rushworth\\_suzanne@hcde.org](mailto:rushworth_suzanne@hcde.org)

Second Vice President

Ann Pinion

[anpinion@epbfi.com](mailto:anpinion@epbfi.com)

Recording Secretary

Jeanie McKenna

[mckennajean@gmail.com](mailto:mckennajean@gmail.com)

Corresponding Secretary

Joyce Campbell

[ickhanum@comcast.net](mailto:ickhanum@comcast.net)

Treasurer

Karen Phillips

[kdpchattn12@yahoo.com](mailto:kdpchattn12@yahoo.com)

Parliamentarian

Esther Clark

[esthertajclark@gmail.com](mailto:esthertajclark@gmail.com)

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## Get to know... Dr. Catie Wills

Alpha Xi is honored to welcome Dr. Catie Wills to our chapter. Catie presently teaches math and is the junior varsity cheer coach at Lakeview Fort Ogelthorpe High School in Catoosa County. Her friend and membership sponsor, Wendy Morgan explains that “as a math teacher, utilizing student interests is the key to pulling them into the numeric world of problem solving” and that “Dr. Wills has a plethora of gifted methods that result in all levels of student praise and devotion at LFO High School.” Catie is originally from Ireland and grew up in a small town called Ballinasloe, in County Galway. She says she made the daring decision to leave her family and friends to attend college at UTC in 1987. The luxury of being a teacher affords her summers off to return home every year. Deciding to make her home here, Catie earned her Bachelor’s degree in Applied Math, actuarial sciences, as well as a B.S. degree in French and her M.Ed. in Secondary Education. She earned her Ed.D. in Leadership and Professional Practices from Tevecca University, all while raising three lovely children. She has two daughters, Ciara and Brianna, and a son, Kian. She is currently helping her eldest daughter, Ciara, plan a wedding that will take place later this month. The planning is made especially challenging since family members from Ireland will also travel here to attend.

Dr. Wills enjoys reading, music, sports, and travel, as well as serving her community. She assisted in starting tutoring services for the Austin Hatcher Foundation for pediatric cancer.

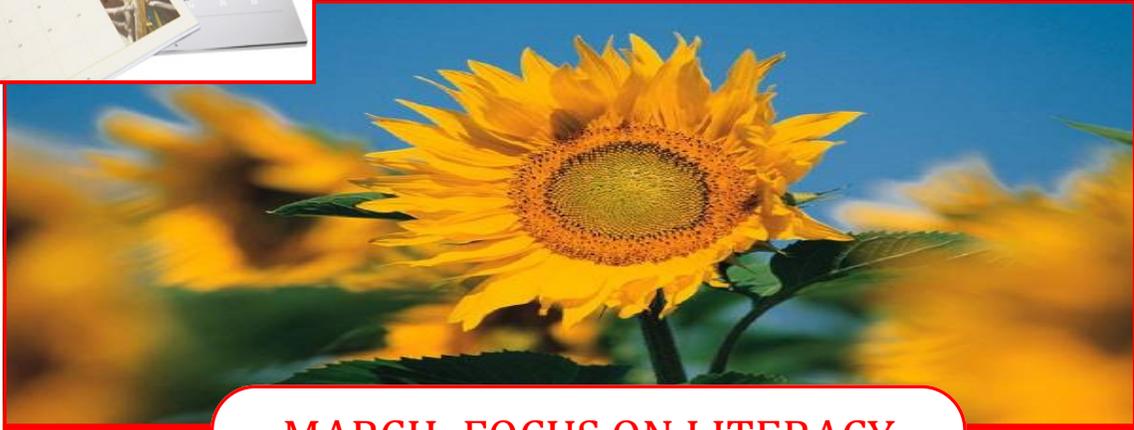
This service helps children who have fallen behind in school or are experiencing cognitive challenges due to the effects of their treatment. Dr. Wills says, “this service is also extended to their siblings, as often-times they too suffer and fall behind academically when priority is naturally shifted to encompass the patient and their appointments and treatment.” Of this, her friend Wendy Morgan writes, “Nelson Mandela’s words, “there is no passion to be found in playing small— in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living”, resonate in Catie. Wendy also says of Catie, “she is effusive and simpatico. I hope you will get to know her, because you will love her.” We all look forward to getting to know Dr. Catie Wills.



Dr. Catie Wills



Dr. Catie Wills with her children and soon-to-be son-in-law (far right)



## MARCH: FOCUS ON LITERACY

The March meeting focus is literacy. Members are asked to bring new/good used children's books for Northside Neighborhood House. Since NNH has two locations now—one in the North Shore and one in Soddy Daisy—it is more important than ever for members to bring books.

**Remember to bring a book for the Book Swap Table – bring a book, take a book.**

### **What's your favorite quote?**

**We are asking each of you to bring a favorite quote to the March meeting. Please have it written/typed out and include the name of whoever wrote the quote. We will use the quotes as part of the literacy activity during the meeting.**

#### A NOTE FROM SUZANNE:

I would like to thank everyone in the Chapter that donated 2017 calendars to the Liz Morton Calendars for Hospitalized Veterans of Tennessee. The Chapter alone donated 48 calendars. These were delivered along with 72 others last month. Liz was such an active member of the Chapter for so long. She would be thrilled to know that the Chapter has become so supportive of this annual project for veterans—something near and dear to her heart.

As I organized the calendars and packed them to go to Murfreesboro, I couldn't help but notice the wide variety of organizations supported by members of Alpha Xi. I was struck with the wide interest of members of this organization—from National Parks, to Wounded Warrior, to animal rescue, Autistic Children and many, many more. It just reinforced what we all know—Delta Kappa Gamma cares and they give!

# MEMBER NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Report on Legislative Symposium 2017



Donna Lamkin with Representative JoAnne Favors

On February 13-14, 2017, the Xi State Legislative Symposium was held in Nashville, TN. Alpha Xi was represented by Donna Lamkin. On the first night, there was a panel discussion with TN State Representatives fielding questions submitted by Delta Kappa Gamma members from across Tennessee.

On the following day, attendees had a breakfast meeting with guest speakers, including Candace McQueen, TN Commissioner of Education. After the breakfast, attendees went to the Tennessee Legislative Plaza to meet with their local Senators and

Representatives. Over the course of the symposium, the following topics were discussed: the new US Secretary of Education, vouchers, standardized tests, teacher evaluations, and underperformance by Tennessee students in reading.

### High School Essay Contest

The 2017 High School Essay topic is centered around a quote by Jane Addams:

“The good we secure for ourselves is precarious and uncertain until it is secured for all of us and incorporated into our common life.”

Details for entering the contest can be found at [xistate.org](http://xistate.org)

Deadline is March 10, 2017

### Xi State Convention

Make plans now to attend the Xi State Convention **June 1-3, 2017**.

You can download the form at

<http://www.xistate.org/forms/2017RegForm.pdf>

A fourth person is needed to complete a suite in Quintard Hall at the Xi State convention. Suites have four individual sleeping rooms and a common bathroom and living room. Contact Ann Pinion if you are interested. ([anpinion@epbfi.com](mailto:anpinion@epbfi.com))

## MEMBER CONCERNS

- ◇ Ernestine Eldridge is still recovering from a cold. She is currently using a walker and continues to do therapy.
- ◇ Judy Leach will be continuing therapy at Siskin for at least five more weeks.
- ◇ Deana James is recovering from a bout with shingles.
- ◇ Sympathy is extended to Marguerite Santich whose husband passed away on Feb. 15th.
- ◇ Sympathy is extended to the family of Maxine Williams whose husband's brother-in-law passed away recently.

Joyce Campbell has sent cards on behalf of Delta Kappa Gamma, but they would all enjoy receiving calls and cards.

If you know of anyone who has been recognized in any way, been sick, or experienced a death in the family, please contact Joyce Campbell so she can follow up.

[jckhanum@comcast.net](mailto:jckhanum@comcast.net)

*Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.*

—Leo Buscaglia



### March Birthdays

24 Karen Phillips

27 Barbara Carlton

### April Birthdays

10 Beverly Smith

13 Emily Clegg

28 Harriett Harris

30 Ernestine Eldridge