

# 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 5

November 2016

### November Means New Member Initiation



Wendy Morgan, Catie Wills, Heather Pinion, Rhonda Lyons, Raja Bhandari, Ann Pinion

Alpha Xi was well-represented at the annual joint initiation ceremony on November 15th and welcomed three new members, Catie Wills, Heather Pinion, and Rhonda Lyons. In addition, we were honored that our Nancy Bibler, chair of Chattanooga area coordinating council, presided over the ceremony. In her remarks, Nancy pointed out that the Chattanooga chapters have the distinctions of counting among our ranks the Xi State Achievement Award winner for 2016, Bea Lyons; Past International President, and Past State President, Dr. Jensi Souders; and Past State President, Beverly Smith.

Gamma Lambda was responsible for the program, inspiration & entertainment which was provided by the Barger Academy Players. The Barger students presented an interpretive movement to the poems of Langston Hughes and were directed by their teacher and Gamma Lambda member, Amy Burton.

### NEXT MEETING

**Thursday December 8th**

**Christmas Tea**

PLACE: Home of Nancy Bibler  
905 Oak Street, Chattanooga

TIME: 4:30 — 6:00 p.m.

Refreshments provided by  
Executive Board

RSVP: None necessary

We will be doing a service project for the Woodmore staff. Please see page 4 for details.





Celebrating the growth of the organization is a key part of the annual initiation ceremony. A highlight of the evening was special recognition from Jensi Souders for Bea Lyons (Gamma Lambda)

who, as mentioned, had been named Xi State Achievement Award winner at the state convention last summer. While Jensi gave Bea's impressive list of credits, she related the story of Bea's (and Alpha chapter's) sacrifice to see Delta Kappa Gamma grow. In order to create a new chapter, twelve members were needed. At the time, Vera Jo Henegar was state president and Beverly Smith was chair of the state expansion committee. On the day of installation, eleven new members were eager to begin, but they were one short. Bea graciously volunteered to transfer her membership to Gamma Lambda from Alpha so that the new chapter could become a reality.

And Alpha Xi is growing too! We are honored to have Catie, Heather, and Rhonda bring their talents to Alpha Xi. We look forward to getting to know them and enjoy their participation in chapter activities. Look for more complete introductions of these ladies in the Member Spotlight in the months ahead.

And what is a great evening without great food! The food provided by Gebbie Sessions was excellent, and we thank her and everyone at East Brainerd Church of Christ for providing a beautiful venue once again.

## President's Message

### Remembering Woodmore



I was teaching one of my Chatt State classes last Monday when I received an HCDE text about the Woodmore Elementary bus accident. I immediately logged on to a computer to find out more. I shared the news with my students and we all sat in stunned silence for a few moments. I cannot imagine the emotions of the first responders who worked feverishly to rescue the students. I cannot imagine the panic of the parents who desperately searched for their children. I cannot imagine the sorrow of those parents who learned that their child had not survived. I cannot imagine the strength of the teachers, who helped the Woodmore students cope with their loss.

When I heard that Woodmore would have classes on Tuesday, I thought of the students, some as young as six years old, who could not possibly understand why their friend was not at school that day...and never would be again. And I certainly thought of the Woodmore teachers who set their own emotions aside so that they could comfort their students with words and hugs and love. I'm sure many tears were shed at school that day, by both students and adults. But, undoubtedly, the students found a sense of peace in the presence of their teachers, who told them it's okay to grieve and to ask questions about what happened, who helped them to find ways to express their grief and to help others who were hurting. Together they made it through the day and the will continue to do so.

At our December 8th meeting, there will be an opportunity for our chapter to express its support of the Woodmore staff. We will be preparing/wrapping Christmas mugs with goodies at the party. Please see the accompanying article in this newsletter about next week's meeting and how you can be a part of this effort. I have also received a suggestion from the principal regarding an exciting opportunity to help the staff support each other and the students. I'll share that idea at the Christmas party. I'll think you'll like it!

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### Alpha Xi Officers 2016-2018

President  
Beverly Smith  
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First Vice President  
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## ***Christmas Service Project for Woodmore Elementary***

**Our service focus at next week's Christmas party will be preparing Christmas mugs for the staff at Woodmore Elementary, just like we did for East Lake Elementary last year. There are 30+ teachers, administrators, and support staff so, if possible, we need each member to bring two Christmas mugs filled with a variety of goodies. Some suggestions are lotions, lip balms, candies, markers, post-it notes, stickers, etc.**

**Let your imagination go wild!**

**Wrap and ribbon will be provided for you to wrap your mug at the party. I will prepare some tags for us to attach to the mugs, but you might want to write a personal note to include with your mug.**

**Alpha Xi member Diamond Kelley is a math coach at Woodmore, and she will deliver the mugs for us the next day. This is a small gesture, but I think it will be very meaningful to the Woodmore staff. Let's show our love and support for our fellow teachers!**

## Xi State Opportunities

### **Xi State Vision Foundation Grants: Deadline December 31st**

The Xi State Vision Foundation provides grants for educational research, educational projects, publication of research, and professional development opportunities to promote the personal and professional growth of Xi State members and excellence in education. Visit [xistate.org](http://xistate.org) for complete details

### **Xi State Scholarships: Deadline February 1, 2017**

If you are working on a graduate degree, you can apply for a Xi State Scholarship. The application form and guidelines can be found on the Xi State website under "Forms".

### **Xi State Convention Opportunities: Deadline February 1, 2017**

If you have a proposal for a breakout session, complete a proposal form on the Xi State website. The 2017 convention is June 1-3.

## Xi State Legislative Symposium & Breakfast



- ⇒ The symposium will be on Monday, February 13th, at 7:30 p.m. (CST) at the Millennium Maxwell house Hotel in Nashville.
- ⇒ There is no charge to attend the symposium
- ⇒ On Tuesday morning, February 14th at 6:30 a.m. (CST), there will be a breakfast and guest speaker. The charge for the breakfast is \$25.
- ⇒ Reservations for both events are due by Saturday, January 14th.
- ⇒ The room rate for the hotel is \$109 plus taxes and reservations should be made by contacting (800) 457-4460 OR [millineumhotels.com/Nashville](http://millineumhotels.com/Nashville) by January 14th.
- ⇒ If you are interested in attending either or both of these events, please notify Beverly Smith, Suzanne Rushworth, or Ann Pinion.

Also, if you attend a school board meeting, city council, or county commission meeting, please make us aware of that so you can share your observations with the group at a chapter meeting or in the chapter newsletter.



**ALPHA XI 60<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

**FEBRUARY 11, 2017**

**Ridgedale Baptist Church**

**Social Time 10:30 a.m.**

**Brunch 11:00 a.m.**

Please sign up to help with any of the following. You can email your choice to Beverly Smith  
bevsmith88@hotmail.com

I. **Food** (coordinator, Karen Phillips)

II. **Decorations** (coordinator, Jeanette Esch)

A. *Centerpieces* (teapots)

B. *Favors*

C. *Printed Programs*

**STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN AREA OF FOCUS:**

Promoting Literacy and Numeracy: volunteer readers at local elementary schools.

Principal Jacquie Hauth at North Hamilton Elementary School has expressed a desire to have our members come and read to her students. If you are able, please contact her at [hauth\\_jacquie@hcde.org](mailto:hauth_jacquie@hcde.org) to schedule a time to volunteer.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Feb 11— 60th birthday celebration planned by ad-hoc committee

Mar 14 — hosted by the Educational Excellence committee/ literacy focus/5:30

Apr/May— Founders Day with other chapters/ Alpha Xi's responsibility is Decorations; hosted by Membership committee/ 5:30 pm

### Concerns

Judy Leach is recovering from a fall,  
please keep her in your prayers.

Remember our friends of the Woodmore  
Community in your thoughts and prayers.

Please send concerns and corrections to Joyce  
Campbell [jckhanum@comcast.net](mailto:jckhanum@comcast.net)



### December Birthdays

**11 Mary Katherine Pace**

**25 Esther Taj**

**28 Donna Lamkin**