

Alpha Upsilon Today



Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide

A Note From Your Editor

What a year this has been! The sisters of AU missed two meetings, two wonderful programs, the celebration of a Woman of Distinction, conventions, and the comradery of our fellow sisters. Things still continue to happen: we held an election, voted in a new member, held Zoom meetings, chose a senior student for our Grant in Aid, updated the webpage, and paid our dues for the coming year(I hope!) .

Our outgoing President Barbara Summers finalized her biennium and the torch has been passed to Jenn McKay, President for the next two years. Both Barb and Jenn have worked hard this spring and summer, keeping members updated and planning for the next two years. Be sure to update your yearbook information and return to Jenn so she can finalize the content.

The Pennsylvania State Convention was cancelled, but a summary is available online for you to catch up on some of the things we missed. Go to dkgpa.weebly and click on 2020 State Convention for the summary. Even if you have never been to a convention, you will find a lot of interesting information on it. Our International Convention, scheduled to be held in Philadelphia, was also cancelled. There will be a virtual event in July for a substitute. Visit the DKG international website for that info.

With the Coronavirus still impacting our lives, our fall schedule is yet to be determined. Jenn is currently attending DKG leadership workshops via Zoom and will be sending information in the near future about what we can expect for Alpha Upsilon in the fall.

At the end of this newsletter you will see the list of our new officers for the next two years. Unfortunately, the positions of First and Second Vice President are not filled. It is up to all of us to contribute our best efforts to keep Alpha Upsilon a viable chapter. We have all benefited from membership and have helped other. Let us keep this going. Betty Grossheim, Editor

President Barbara Summers Comments

It's hard to believe that my biennium is coming to a close. It certainly isn't ending the way I thought. Who would have ever imagined in our life time this pandemic. I refer to it as the 'plague'! We have worked together to keep our society up and running. I would like to thank everyone who supported me and my project ~ Project Linus. We donated 18 blankets to children and young people. Thank you if you purchased gift cards to benefit our grant-in aid. Thank you for supporting our Crop for A Cause, also benefiting our GIA.

It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve as the President of Alpha Upsilon! I hope you will continue to support Jenn McKay as you have me.



Jenn McKay (Incoming President)
Barb Summers (Outgoing President)

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A Message from Jen McKay, President Elect

Life can involve some difficult trails as we have experienced during these last few months. Our trails may lead us through peaceful fields of wheat – blowing in the wind, a forest so thick of trees and moss you cannot see down the path or somewhere in between. As we maneuver through these life adventures we may focus on the sunshine, the trail itself, or the tracks we notice at our feet. Small footprints influencing us in the pathways we choose to follow. As we progress through life, we leave our prints on the people close to us and the world around us. It is my hope in the next two years, as you president, that you, my fellow sisters of Alpha Upsilon, are ready to **TRACK** our adventures.

Together we lead

Reaching new heights

Accepting changes

Caring for Students and Woman Educators

Kindling Success



Together we can accomplish so much. Consider teaming up with another sister to serve as a leader for Alpha Upsilon. Think how you could lead fellow sisters to further their personal growth. Follow unfamiliar pathways that lead us to exploring different knowledge taking us to new heights. Look for fresh skills to learn or serving on a different committee. Accept the changes along the way as we track these imprints for success of DKG. Be part of the solutions to uncharted changes that define our future. Care for today's students and woman educators by advocating best practices and showing support. Contemplate how Alpha Upsilon can influence and strength education in 2020. Kindling success for all the people inscribed by our life prints. Think how you can make a difference representing DKG.

I am excited to lead and support you down a new adventurist trail toward your realization of your expanded potential. I encourage you to step out of your comfortable walkway into a new groove, challenging you to be a leader or learn a new skill. We can stamp our prints on our fellow woman educators to empower the next generations to implement great change in our evolving world. Our understanding of teaching, leading and learning provides us with the expertise needed to make a difference. So join me on this undertaking of unexplored paths, looking for new footprints to follow, and engraving our prints on the future.

#Sister4Ever Jenn McKay

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Alpha Upsilon Sisters Remembered

Janice Brown

A longtime DKG member, Janice Brown, died on April 6th in a nursing home in Alpharetta Georgia. Janice worked as a physical education and science teacher at Arnold Junior High and Ridge Avenue Junior High for over 30 years while raising 3 children with her husband, Richard. She also found time to sponsor the cheerleaders and gymnastics team at Valley. An avid bridge player, Janice began the “Junior Bridge Group” for Alpha Upsilon to teach newcomers the game. Her sense of humor and caring manner will be missed by many friends in the area. A memorial service was held on July 3rd at Puckety Presbyterian Church where her sons and grandchildren participated in a beautiful service. A copy of a poem reflecting Janice was sent to you on Facebook and is also included at the end of this newsletter.



Betty Baird

President Barb Summers shares her thoughts on the passing of Betty Baird:

A memory ...

I had the honor of attending a celebration of life for Miss. Betty Baird. Although the sadness of her no longer being with us, was definitely evident, there was also joy in all the accomplishments of her life! Miss. Baird passed away on Saturday - May 23, 2020 in Cabot, Pa at the age of 99 years old. Miss. Baird holds a very dear place in my heart. You see, she was my mentor - the reason I went into education and became a Home Economics teacher. I could see the love she had for her students, and I am proud to say I was one of them. Miss. Baird taught for 35 years in in Blairsville, Highlands, and Valley (New Kensington -Arnold SD). She was so proud of teaching a boy’s chef class and when she was in Blairsville, she created the first cafeteria lunch program making soup and sandwiches with the help of the Principal and senior class volunteers.



Miss. Baird was very blessed to have her niece looking out for her. Mary Beth Yeamans (also an AU member) held a surprise birthday party for her at the residence where she was living to celebrate her 99th birthday last October.

Despite the fact that Miss Baird hasn’t been able to join our most recent meetings, she was a very proud member of Delta Kappa Gamma and will certainly be missed.

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2020 Grant in Aid Chosen



From the seven applicants this year, the Grant in Aid Committee has selected Hanna Clarke from Valley High School as the recipient. Hanna has maintained a 4.23 grade point average while taking many honors classes and being involved in many activities. She has received the Rotary Club Academic Achievement Award, was named the Trib Total Medial Outstanding Young Citizen and the New Kensington Lion's Club Student of the Month.

At School she is involved in Student Government, Drama Club, National Honor Society, Choreographer for Show Choir, Spanish Club, Cheerleading and the Gifted Program.

Hanna worked at Hill Crest Country Club and currently works at Unique Looks Hair Salon. In her free time, she teaches Sunday School and vacation Bible School. She volunteers at the Food Bank and the Salvation Army.,

Hanna plans to attend either Clarion or Slipper Rock University to major in Early Childhood and Special Education.

Congratulations to Hanna!

Sandy, Ross, Grant in Aid Chairperson

2018 Grant In Aid Recipient Keeps in Touch with Alpha Upsilon

Leta Meyer, Alpha Upsilon's 2018 Grant in Aid Recipient, sent the chapter a charming letter updating us on her college career at Seton Hill University as an Art Education major. In her fourth semester at the University, Leta was on the Dean's list and is also a member of the Honors Program and the Alpha Lambda Delta. She recently passed her Sophomore Review for the Art Program with a perfect score and is now fully supported by the faculty for any artistic career she may pursue. In addition to her class work, she is Art editor of the Art Magazine, *Eye Contact*, in the Education Club, Nature Club and Students in the Arts Club and Campus Ministry. Below is a picture of one of her sculptures chosen for the show.



La Figlia, 12 December 2019, 19" x 10" x 7 ½",

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Alpha Upsilon Sister Recognized as a Woman of Distinction by State

With the DKG State Convention being cancelled this June, attendees will miss the recognition of members being honored with the Album of Distinction (AOD) award. This award represents a members' life work outside DKG and represents our Purpose #6... To stimulate the personal and professional growth of members, and to encourage their participation in appropriate programs of action.

Alpha Upsilon is proud of Marsha Ewing, our most recipient of this award. In 2019, Marsha received a 1000 hour pin for her volunteer work at the Allegheny Valley Hospital. In addition to her hours spent at the hospital she chaired the Ways and Means Committee where she led her committee to hold basket raffle, monthly lobby sales and a Christmas Market. In 2018 her committee raised over \$14,000.00 and in 2019, they raised almost \$16,000. Congratulations to Marsha on this fine achievement.

During the year if you or a sister you know receives an award for her activities in the community, be sure to nominate her for this yearly state award. Specific criteria are on the state website.



Upcoming State and International Events

PA State Creative Arts Retreat, Olmstead Manor, Ludlow, PA April 23-25, 2021

PA State Convention, Nittany Lion Inn, State College, PA June 11 – 13, 2021

International Conference, Portland, Oregon, July 7-10, 2021

International Conference, San Antonio, Texas July 21 – 24, 2021

International Conference, Tampere, Finland July 2022

International Convention, New Orleans, Louisiana Summer 2024

International Convention, Gaylord National, DC Area National Harbor, Maryland Summer 2026

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Alpha Upsilon Profile

As we say thank you to Barb Summers for serving as our President for the last two years, let us learn something about this retired Home Economics teacher. Some of our longer-term members may not have known Barbara very well since she has been a member only since 2014. But after her first two years of membership, she willingly stepped up to be First Vice President and then President of the chapter.



Barb grew up in New Kensington, majored in Home Economics at Penn State and to this day bleeds blue and white for Penn State. One of her defining college experiences was her time spent in Europe. Since their father worked for TWA at the time, Barb and her sister were able to travel to Europe for a semester hitchhiking throughout 13 countries in Europe, sampling the food, enjoying the sights and even seeing the Pope.

Her love of travel continues. Last year she traveled to Ireland where she visited with relatives that she had discovered through her genealogy studies. With a grandfather who was born in England, one of 11 children, she is continuing to study her family heritage.

Barb at Convention

Barb currently lives in the house that she grew up in, enjoying retirement from her teaching career at Highlands. She feels lucky that her son, daughter, their spouses, 2 granddaughters, and 2 grandsons live in the area. It enables her to help, while enjoying watching the families grow.

Today, Barb is active in the Logans Ferry Presbyterian Church, where she is an Elder. She also is a member of the Pucketos Garden Club where she co-chairs the Garden Therapy Committee. Through this her artsy/craftsy interests shine, benefiting both the club and community with the projects she creates.

2020-2022 Alpha Upsilon Officers

President - Jennifer McKay ;

1st Vice President -

2nd Vice President -

Recording Secretary - Colleen Sites ;

Treasurer – Sue Hilty

Corresponding Secretary -Linda Henkel ;

Nomination Committee - Marsha Ewing and Barb Gasperini

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Poem read at Janice Brown's Memorial Service



Afterglow

*I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one.
I'd like to leave an afterglow of smiles when life is done.
I'd like to leave an echo whispering softly down the ways,
Of happy times and laughing times
and bright and sunny days.
I'd like the tears of those who grieve, to dry before the sun;
Of happy memories that I leave when life is done.*