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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA REPRESENTATIVES TO THE UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND ECOSOC

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In this issue of the Newsletter we will be looking at ways in which Society members are extending the reach of education for global understanding to new locations. In our last Newsletter our spotlight was on the Conference for Educators at the United Nations. In this Newsletter we have articles about conferences this past April at Florida Atlantic University and at the Carter Center in Atlanta. We are also eager to spread news of activities throughout our membership, and include an article about programs with a U.N. focus recently held by members in Reno, Nevada.

And make a note: The next CTAUN Conference for Educators at the United Nations is scheduled for Friday, January 30, 2009.

FOCUS ON THE UNITED NATIONS AT FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

The Committee on Teaching About the United Nations (CTAUN) served as a co-sponsor at Florida Atlantic University's College of Education for a Community Forum on Wednesday evening, April 2 and a College of Education Forum on Thursday morning, April 3. The speaker for both events was Gillian Martin Sorensen, Senior Advisor at the United Nations. The topic for the Community Forum was "Living and Learning Together: The United Nations, Children's Rights and Education." Ms. Sorensen addressed the role of the United Nations, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and how educators can promote and protect the rights of children everywhere. The topic for the College of Education Forum was "Living and Learning Together: Education and Human Rights," and the presentation centered on education and human rights in the context of the Millennium Development Goals. On both occasions Ms. Sorensen also spoke about U.S./U.N. relations. Both presentations were followed by discussion periods.

CTAUN CONFERENCE AT CARTER CENTER FEATURED IN LOCAL NEWS

A conference sponsored and planned by CTAUN, "Working with the United Nations to Understand the World We Share," was held this past April 18 at the Carter Center in Atlanta, Georgia. Approximately 150 attendees were welcomed by Conference Chair Anne-Marie Carlson. The opening keynote speaker was Mr. Ramu Damodaran of the Department of Public Information at the U.N., who spoke on "The U.N. Call to Educators." Professor Jonathan Todres of the Georgia State University's School of Law, advocated for the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child, and Gillian Sorensen, Senior Advisor, the U.N. Foundation, discussed U.S./U.N. relations and the benefits the United States gains by its membership in the U.N.

Local newspapers, including the Newnan, Georgia *Times-Herald* of April 27, 2008, provided coverage of conference panel speakers, arguing that changes in the business climate made it urgent that schools "internationalize the curriculum." The article quoted Society member Narin Stassis, CTAUN First Vice-Chair and moderator for the panel on "Intercultural Understanding," who stated that "As educators, we need to find ways to bring the world into our classrooms." A summary of the day's proceedings is available on the CTAUN website (www.teachun.org).

MEETINGS HONORING THE UNITED NATIONS HELD IN RENO, NEVADA
Lois Bianchi, President of Lambda Chapter, Nevada

As in other chapters, there is one person in Lambda Chapter in Reno who has the big picture of Delta Kappa Gamma's involvement with the United Nations. That member is Rhoda "Bobbie" Talso. Now in her 80th year, she remembers that she was seventeen in 1945, the year that the United Nations was established. Bobbie has been very active this past year partnering with local groups with similar interests to present two very different events honoring the U.N.

In the fall Bobbie arranged a partnership of Delta Kappa Gamma with other community groups to celebrate United Nations Day, October 24, with a forum titled "The United Nations and You." Local people shared ways in which everybody can help implement the U.N. Millennium Development Goals. Among the topics discussed were combating infectious diseases and the education of the next generation. Lois Bianchi, President of Lambda Chapter, spoke about Delta Kappa Gamma's contributions to UNICEF toward achieving universal primary education.

The next event spearheaded by Bobbie was the International Women's Day Luncheon held on March 8, 2008. Once again she arranged for Delta Kappa Gamma to partner with other interested groups, such as the Reno AAUW and groups from local colleges. Following a beautiful catered lunch, the keynote speech was presented by Dr. Michael Barreto, the Chief of Police from Rio de Janeiro. Other presentations included music and an original dance with poetry. Funds were raised for scholarships for international students at the colleges. Approximately 200 people were in attendance and the luncheon was covered by a local TV station. Bobbie believes that "Where there's a will, there's a way," and that partnering is the way.

WATCH FOR CD "WE SING FOR THE CHILDREN" AT INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Members are encouraged to be on the lookout at Convention for a beautiful CD featuring an original song, "We Sing for the Children," composed by Janice H. Moen, the International Music Representative. The CD was produced in collaboration between the Society and U.S. Fund for UNICEF. Your donation of \$15 will benefit the Afghanistan Education Program. Others featured on the CD include the voices of Afghan teachers, Adam Fifield, Deputy Director of Communications for U.S. Fund for UNICEF and Bernt Aasen, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive Director for UNICEF, UNICEF Representative to Afghanistan 2004-2006, as well as Clay Aiken, U.S. Fund for UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador.

YOUR UN REPRESENTATIVES

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

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