

# Alpha Xi Newsletter

Sept. 2020

## President's Welcome

### *The Year of the Unknown*

Hello and welcome back to another year of Alpha Xi! This year has already brought many challenges and changes, but one thing is certain – teachers can and will make things happen.

I am looking forward to seeing how our members find ways to continue to impact students and our community through these challenging times.

Although we are not meeting in person, the executive committee has made it a priority to try and find ways to keep us connected throughout this year – though meetings or other means.

Please feel free to reach out to me at anytime with any questions, concerns or suggestions to make this year one to remember!

Lacy



## Mission Statement

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.

Fall 2020

Issue #1

Editor: Lacy Cox

# Reservations

The reservations committee will still be used this year. They will be reaching out to remind members of our meeting dates and times. This committee will also share any information that the membership needs to know: Zoom login information, fundraiser deadlines, etc.

Please be responsive to our reservations committee!

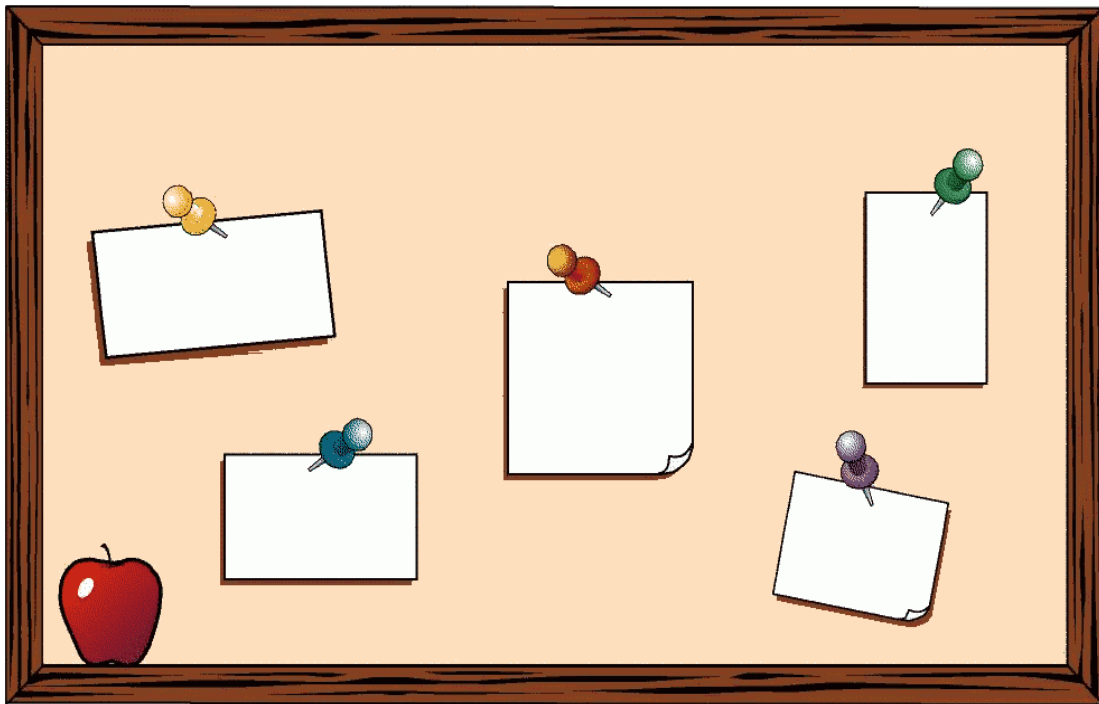
# Fundraisers

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*Our Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser was a success (especially for the quick turnaround needed).*

*We will be doing another fundraiser in October – selling giftcards to Applebee’s. Be on the lookout for more information to come in early October.*

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*Please let Lacy know if you have any changes to your contact information for the yearbook. Once it is finalized, it will be emailed to print, or mailed to those members without email.*

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## Committees: Past and Present

Attention all past committee chairpersons! We want to hear from you! If you have ever been a chairperson on one of our chapter committees, could you please reach out and let the current executive board know what your responsibilities were? We are working to develop guidelines for our committees, and are adapting the state guidelines to fit our chapter needs. In this process, we do not want to overlook anything and need your help in making sure our committees know what is expected of them.



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*OUR NEXT MEETING WILL  
BE HELD ON MONDAY,  
OCTOBER 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2020.*

*HOCKING COUNTY  
CHILDREN'S MUSEUM WILL  
BE PRESENTING.*

*GOOGLE CLASSROOM WILL  
ALSO BE SHARED SO ALL  
MEMBERS KNOW WHAT  
OUR ACTIVE TEACHERS  
ARE EXPERIENCING INSIDE  
AND OUTSIDE THE  
CLASSROOM.*



We will be using Zoom to conduct our meetings for the foreseeable future.

Please do not stress about this – I have been involved in numerous meetings at the state level with all ages of participants who have all managed to get logged in and be active participants.


We will make it work!

# Meet our New Members



MY NAME IS TESS PAYNE. THIS IS MY THIRD YEAR IN THE LOGAN-HOCKING SCHOOL DISTRICT. I HAVE BEEN TEACHING FOR FIVE YEARS. I GRADUATED IN 2011 WITH A BACHELOR'S IN CHILD AND FAMILY STUDIES FROM OHIO UNIVERSITY AND A MASTER'S DEGREE IN MILD-MODERATE SPECIAL EDUCATION. I HAVE TAUGHT ALL ASPECTS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION FROM INCLUSION TO THE MULTIPLE DISABILITIES CLASSROOM. I CURRENTLY TEACH IN THE MD ROOM, K-2 AT CENTRAL ELEMENTARY. MY PASSION IN EDUCATION IS TEACHING LITTLE ONES SOCIAL SKILLS, AND GIVING THEM A STRONG FOUNDATION TO BE ABLE TO BECOME READERS. MY FAVORITE AGE GROUP IS KINDERGARTEN BECAUSE I LOVE THEIR MINDSET AND CURIOSITY TO LEARN.

I AM MARRIED TO MY HUSBAND DREW, AND WE HAVE 2 KIDS JACKSON (4), AND AVA (22 MONTHS OLD). THEY BOTH KEEP ME ON MY TOES WITH THEIR CONTAGIOUS ENERGY AND SMILES. IN MY FREE TIME I LIKE TO SPEND TIME WITH MY FAMILY, CROSSFIT, AND OF COURSE PLAN FOR MY CLASSROOM. I AM EXCITED TO BE APART OF THIS GROUP :)



MY NAME IS EMILY LAIRD AND I'M CURRENTLY IN MY 9TH YEAR OF TEACHING. I RECEIVED MY B.A IN PSYCHOLOGY FROM THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY IN 2007, AND MY M.ED. IN SPECIAL EDUCATION FROM OHIO UNIVERSITY IN 2012.

I DEVELOPED AN INTEREST IN SPECIAL EDUCATION WHILE WORKING IN THE FIELD OF APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS DURING COLLEGE. I BEGAN MY CAREER AT LHSD TEACHING INTEGRATED PRESCHOOL IN 2012, AND I'M CURRENTLY TEACHING THE 3RD-4TH GRADE MULTIPLE DISABILITY CLASS AT CENTRAL ELEMENTARY.

MY HUSBAND AND I HAVE TWO CHILDREN, MADELINE (6), AND MAX (2). WE LIVE IN HIDE-A-WAY HILLS AND ENJOY BOATING AND HIKING TOGETHER. THE BUSY TEACHER/MOM TO YOUNG CHILDREN LIFE TAKES UP MOST OF MY TIME THESE DAYS, BUT I WOULDN'T HAVE IT ANY OTHER WAY.





MY NAME IS ERICA WHEATON. THIS IS MY SECOND YEAR TEACHING. I AM THE INTERVENTION SPECIALIST OUT AT HOCKING HILLS ELEMENTARY. MY DEGREE IS K-12 MILD-INTENSIVE INTERVENTION, AND I OBTAINED IT FROM ASHLAND UNIVERSITY, I GREW UP IN PICKERINGTON, OHIO. I NOW LIVE IN LOGAN WITH MY PET FISH.



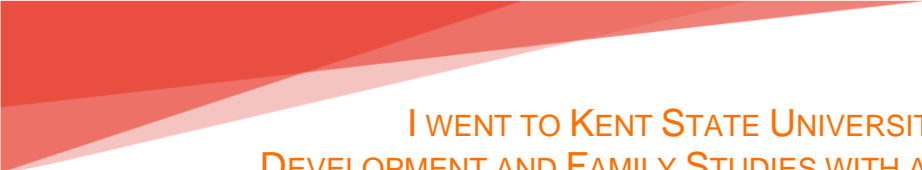
## MICHELLE LAUX

I WAS BORN AND RAISED IN LAKEWOOD, OH, WHICH IS A DIRECT SUBURB OF CLEVELAND. IT IS INCREDIBLY DIVERSE AND I AM VERY FORTUNATE TO HAVE GROWN UP THERE.

I AM AN ONLY CHILD BUT I GREW UP IN A MULTI GENERATIONAL HOUSEHOLD WITH GRANDPARENTS, AUNTS, UNCLES, AND COUSINS. MY FATHER WAS THE LEGAL GUARDIAN OF TWO OF THOSE COUSINS SO IT WAS LIKE I HAD TWO SISTERS.

I PLAYED BASKETBALL FOR 10 YEARS, SOFTBALL FOR 4 YEARS, AND DANCED MOST OF MY LIFE. IN HIGH SCHOOL I WAS IN THE DRAMA CLUB, THE BARNSTORMERS AND WAS THESPIAN PRESIDENT. I WAS ON THE DANCE TEAM, THE RANGERETTES, AND SENIOR YEAR I WAS CAPTAIN. AND I ALSO WAS IN DANCE GROUP, WHICH IS A STUDENT RUN ORGANIZATION THAT CHOREOGRAPHED AND PERFORMED A RECITAL EVERY YEAR.



A decorative graphic consisting of a red trapezoidal shape that tapers to the right, with a lighter red gradient overlaying it.

I WENT TO KENT STATE UNIVERSITY AND MAJORED IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES WITH A CONCENTRATION IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND A MINOR IN FAMILY, FOODS, & NUTRITIONAL STUDIES. ALTHOUGH I DID START OUT AS AN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION MAJOR. I AM A MEMBER OF THE CHI OMEGA FRATERNITY, WHERE I HELD THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT RECRUITMENT CHAIR AND SISTERHOOD CHAIR. I SERVED AS THE VICE PRESIDENT OF RISK MANAGEMENT AND REDUCTION FOR THE PANHELLENIC COUNCIL. I WAS ALSO THE SECRETARY FOR KENT'S CHAPTER OF MORTAR BOARD AND THE VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNICATIONS FOR ORDER OF OMEGA.

POST GRAD, I MOVED BACK TO LAKEWOOD AND WAS AN ASSISTANT PRESCHOOL TEACHER FOR 3.5 YEARS, AS WELL AS A SERVER AT A LOCAL BURGER RESTAURANT. SHORTLY AFTER STARTING MY MASTER'S IN SCHOOL COUNSELING AT CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY, I MOVED TO CENTRAL OHIO TO BE WITH MY NOW HUSBAND, ZACK. I TRANSFERRED TO OHIO UNIVERSITY AND COMPLETED MY MASTER'S IN COUNSELOR EDUCATION, SCHOOL COUNSELING IN MAY 2018 AND BEGAN MY CAREER AT LOGAN-HOCKING THAT FOLLOWING SCHOOL YEAR! I AM ALSO A FACILITATOR FOR THE PROGRAM RULING OUR EXPERIENCES (ROX), WHICH IS THE NATIONAL NON-PROFIT LEADER IN PROGRAMMING, RESEARCH, AND EDUCATION OF GIRLS!



# Reinstated Member



JANICE GAULT-BALLINGER

I DECIDED IN SECOND GRADE THAT I WANTED TO BE A TEACHER. I STARTED TEACHING 6TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS AND SOCIAL STUDIES FOR 2 YEARS AT INDIAN VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL IN ENON, OH.

AFTER I MOVED TO LOGAN, I BECAME THE HUMANE EDUCATOR FOR ONE YEAR VISITING EACH 2ND AND 5TH GRADE CLASSROOM IN A THREE WEEK ROTATION PRESENTING LESSONS ON HUMANE TREATMENT OF ANIMALS, ESPECIALLY DOGS AND CATS.

I STARTED TEACHING 7TH GRADE SCIENCE FOR LOGAN - HOCKING IN 1980. AT THAT TIME 7TH GRADE SCIENCE WAS ONLY ONE SEMESTER.



IN 1992 THE MIDDLE SCHOOL OPENED AND THE TRANSITION HAPPENED TO OCCUR THE SAME WEEK WEEKEND THAT I WAS IN PITTSBURG AT THE NATIONAL SCIENCE TEACHERS CONVENTION. IT WAS A CRAZY FEW DAYS WHEN I CAME BACK AS CUSTODIANS AND OTHER SERVICE PERSONNEL HAS TO MOVE A LOT OF MY BOXES WHILE I WAS GONE! IN 1994 SEVENTH GRADE SCIENCE WAS CHANGED TO A FULL YEAR COURSE.

I LOVED TEACHING AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL WITH THE LARGER ROOM, TABLES INSTEAD OF DESKS, AND PLENTY OF STORAGE FOR EQUIPMENT. BECAUSE I WAS ABLE TO DO MORE EXPERIMENTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS.

STUDENTS GET MORE OUT OF AND REMEMBER MORE FROM LABS AND LIVE DEMONSTRATIONS THAN FROM JUST SEEING PICTURES AND READING FROM A TEXT BOOK.

AFTER I FINISHED MY MASTER'S DEGREE I STARTED TO APPLY AND ATTEND A VARIETY OF SCIENCE WORKSHOPS, MOSTLY FUNDED BY THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.

I went to:  
Science for Science Teachers-  
Univ. Calif. Berkeley  
Institute for Chemical Education-  
Univ. Northern Colorado  
Studying Volcanoes in Hawaii  
Working as a research assistant to a  
scientist- Pittsburg Energy  
Technology Center  
Studying Rocks and Minerals S.E. OH  
Building an Energy Cycle at OSU  
Cruising the Galápagos Islands  
Studying Flora & Fauna

Through these workshops I was able to accumulate more that 45 credits after my Masters, but more importantly I was learning and experiencing new things that I was able to come back and share with my students!

After I retired I married Gary Ballinger and we spent 13 wonderful winter seasons being Snowbirds in Florida where my favorite thing to do was to go to the Beach Cafe on Anna Maria Island to listen to music, dance and watch the sunset in the Gulf of Mexico.