



News from the International Office

Election Results Announced

The votes have been tallied for PLT's 2005 international balloting. For the second straight year the candidates were chosen by direct ballot, a landmark change in association governance approved by the 2003 biennial council. The election was also the second consecutive contest to employ online balloting. This year all votes were cast electronically.

Rita J. Jones (Sacramento Area Chapter) has been re-elected as international president for 2005–2007. She received a 400-vote margin over her opponent, **Marsha L. Berry** (Gamma Gamma/Indiana U.-Kokomo).

In the vote for international treasurer, **Elizabeth M. Douglass**, also of Gamma Gamma Chapter, received a majority over **Barbara J. Weiskopf** (Detroit Area Chapter). Two new vice presidents, **Sheldon B. Wrice** (Beta Lambda/University of Akron Chapter) and **Kathleen Harris** (Cleveland Area

Chapter), as well as the incumbent candidate for undergraduate student vice president, **Joanna M. Kasda**, were elected unopposed.

Two Thetans Leave Generous Bequests

PLT Executive Director J. Ogden Hamilton reports that the estate of the late **Margaret R. Hidy** has left a \$10,000 bequest to Pi Lambda Theta. Mrs. Hidy, who was initiated into Nu/Ohio State U. Chapter in 1939, received her B.A. from The Western College in 1923. A high school teacher in Ohio, she became a life member in 1943. She lived in Florida in retirement.

The Hidy bequest is the second received by PLT in recent months. In the fall of 2004, the estate of **Geneva Delight Williams** left \$4,880 to the association. Miss Williams, who was educated at Central Missouri State Teachers College and Northwestern University, was initiated into PLT in 1942. A longtime member of Kansas City Area Chapter, she was renowned for her string of faithful attendance at consecutive biennial councils.

Barbara Sorenson, Past President, Backed StrengthsQuest

Barbara Wynne Sorenson, who served as PLT International President from 1999 to 2003, died at her home May 7 after a lengthy struggle with cancer. At the time of her death, she was an associate professor and chair of the Department of School Counseling and School Psychology at Azusa Pacific University.

A native Texan, she received a B.A. and two master's degrees from Point Loma University before earning her Ed.D. at the University of Southern California in 1996. She served in Southern California as a teacher and administrator for more than 25 years.



For more than two decades, Dr. Sorenson served Pi Lambda Theta in chapter, regional, and international capacities. From 1991 until 2003 she served on the PLT International Board of Directors, the last four years as PLT International President. After retiring as president, she introduced the StrengthsQuest program featured at this summer's PLT Leadership Conference in New Orleans.

This spring the PLT Board awarded Dr. Sorenson the 2005 Scepter and Key Award, which will be awarded posthumously at this summer's biennial council. A tribute to Dr. Sorenson can be found on page 2. She is survived by two sons, a daughter, six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Another son, Tobin, died in a rock-climbing accident in the Canadian Rockies in 1980.

Contributions can be made to the Tobin Sorenson Physical Education Scholarship Fund, care of the PLT Educational Endowment.

"To Honor Outstanding Educators and Inspire Their Leadership . . ."

Kimberly Conrow, a physical education major at the State University of New York College at Brockport, has been named the 2005 recipient of the Tobin Sorenson Physical Education Scholarship, awarded biennially to an outstanding student intending to teach physical education or related areas. Barbara Wynne Sorenson established the scholarship within the Pi Lambda Theta Educational Endowment in 1999 in memory of her son.

In just weeks, Kim and her fellow recipients of scholarships and awards will be recognized in New Orleans at "Leadership Revolution," the PLT Biennial Council and Leadership Conference (July 28–31). You can learn more about all the recipients in this issue, beginning on page 4.

Kim received her B.S. in physical education this May. She attained dean's list status each semester. The professor for her adaptive physical education class calls her "a fantastic teacher, always prepared. . . Her enthusiasm, motivation, and creativity are some of the traits that make her stand out among her peers." A member of Alpha Chi honorary, she is noted for class participation and curiosity.

Kim has been a key in running the sport leadership program at the Rochester School for the Deaf, dealing with all phases of the program, including planning, equipment, activities, and skills. She has also served as an adapted physical ed "swim and gym buddy," working one-on-one with multiple-disability students, including the autistic.



Barbara Wynne Sorenson: Teacher, Mentor, Friend

I think much of Barbara Sorenson's life remains a mystery to even her closest friends. Her professional life was, of course, laudatory, and is probably known to many in her PLT community. Personally, Barbara was my encouraging angel, one who empowered and elevated me in all the time I knew her. She softly prodded, pushed, and exhorted quite a few of us to finish our doctoral work.

Barbara was an intensely private woman. She would not welcome discussion of any of those aspects of her kindness, her Christian charity, her compassion, or her generosity. I have to respect that.

I will proudly tell you for all the world to know that Barbara's creative mind and voracious appetite for learning kept her running full power 18 hours a day. She often slept on her keyboard in the middle of the night while working on her doctorate at USC and, on two hours of sleep, came into work the next day brighter than anyone else at the table. She handled

quagmires and conflicts with grace and wisdom. She refused to dwell on petty slights or stumbling blocks. She had a musical laugh that crept into areas of personal difficulties and rounded the rough edges of one's soul.

She entertained all ideas, held all hopes, and followed her better angels. More than two years before she became obviously ill, she began feeling

unusually tired, a condition to which she was unaccustomed and to which she would not admit.

Her curious, positive quest for answers to explain her tiredness led her to explore alternative health practitioners, and she was fascinated with the treatments of a much-lettered doctor who had escaped China with only his Bible and his hopes. How we laughed about the odd and powerful herbs he prescribed, looking much like a bird's nest of questionable components!

In fact, her symptoms abated with Chinese medicine and she felt well. She powered on, sharing her vision of a world in which all teachers would see the child as a holy and precious being, giving unselfishly of herself to her university and her students—teaching extra courses, traveling to far corners of the world to teach other teachers what she knew. Even as she fell gravely ill she continued to hold in her heart the

desire to teach kindergarten "just for fun" after retiring from the university! During her entire year of treatment at City of Hope I never heard Barbara complain. I would sit there in a clown getup, wig and red nose and all, and she'd look up from the chemo and giggle. She was brave and patient and determined to be well.

Of all the accomplishments Barbara made on her own, the title of



Barbara Sorenson brought her warm smile and gracious ways to numerous Pi Lambda Theta events at both the chapter and the international levels. (Above, upper right) In 2002, complete with lei, she cheerfully mingled with members of the newly installed Delta Eta/Chaminade U. Chapter. (Below) Wrapping up her presidency in Boston in 2003, she presented Jay Sevier with the Tobin Sorenson Physical Education Scholarship, named in memory of her son.



Lucille Pratt

In Memoriam

- Lucille **Carnahan** (Alpha Zeta, MAL)
- Helena **Cicciari** (MAL)
- Dorothy **Corbit** (Alpha Beta, MAL)
- Elsie **Dailey** (Alpha Alpha)
- Grace **Falco** (Beta Chi)
- Rosemary **Fisher** (Alpha, MAL)
- Louise **Frantz** (Eta, MAL)
- Elizabeth **Griffith** (Alpha Theta, MAL)
- Carrie **Hammil** (Alpha Alpha)
- Patricia **Hannon** (Alpha Gamma)
- Bertha **Hodgson** (Alpha Beta, MAL)
- Hazel **Holden** (Xi, MAL)
- Bryan **Johnson** (MAL)
- Natalie **Keller** (Beta Lambda)
- Dorothy **Koch** (Alpha Epsilon, Philadelphia)
- Vernette **Landers** (Alpha Delta, Los Angeles)
- Lelia **Ledbetter Teague** (Alpha, Kansas City)
- James **Mack** (MAL)
- Elaine **Olson** (Spokane)
- Louisa **Oriente** (Alpha Epsilon, MAL)
- Harriet **Parker** (Beta Epsilon, Greater Milwaukee)
- Phyllis **Parkinson** (Sigma, MAL)
- Martha **Peterson** (Omega, MAL)
- Gertrude **Pittard** (Alpha Mu)
- Ruth **Roberts** (Alpha Mu)
- Catherine **Rockwood** (Lambda, MAL)
- Barbara **Sorenson** (Los Angeles, Alpha Delta)
- Jennie **Stanley** (Alpha Kappa, MAL)
- Esther **Stickland** (Nu, Central Ohio)
- Kathryn **Williams** (Mu, MAL)
- H. G. **Winterrose** (Sigma, MAL)

(Chapters in order of membership. MAL = Member at large)

which she was most proud was not an accomplishment but a gift. She was a Grandmother with a capital "G." How her face would light up when one even mentioned her grandchildren! Having "those sweet babies" crawl up into her lap in the early morning hours so she could softly welcome them to the day was, in her words, "the best life has to offer!"

What a wonderful Southern lady! What a precious friend! How deeply and exquisitely I miss her as she journeys on ahead.

—Kathleen Bradley, Past President
Los Angeles Area Chapter

2005 Chapters of Honor Named

Pi Lambda Theta's "Chapter of Honor" designation recognizes chapters in good standing that have also achieved membership growth and documented their efforts at member retention. Chapters of honor have additionally demonstrated involvement in professional-development activities such as fundraising; scholarship support; community education; member communications; member involvement; and regional involvement.

Two chapters have qualified as PLT's Chapters of Honor for 2005:

Beta Zeta/U. of Hawaii Chapter

2004–2005 Officers

Bob S. Hu, president

Ngoc-Thuy Nguyen, vice president

Dean K. Nakamoto, treasurer

Yvette McDonald, recording secretary

Angela Morris, corresponding secretary

Ruby N. Saito, newsletter editor

Helen M. Hasegawa, membership chair

Virginia Area Chapter

2004–2005 Officers

Doris M. James, president

Dennis Winston, vice president

Cynthia S. Davis, treasurer

Carole F. Long, recording secretary

Gloria P. Nolan, corresponding secretary

Joan B. Christian, financial secretary



Headliners

DISSERTATIONS

Ferial Fatima Abraham (Hamline U.), "Transformative Experiences of Learning Community Members"



Banda

Devender Banda (Pennsylvania State University), "Math Preference and Mastery Relationship in Middle School Students with Disabilities"

Jonathan Gillentine (University of Hawaii, Manoa), "Understanding Early Literacy Development: The Impact of a Collaborative Professional Development Course"

Nathaniel Jones (University of Connecticut), "Advancing Technology: The Reliability and Practical Utility of Using Handheld Computers to Streamline Direct Observation"

Fan-Yu Lin (Pennsylvania State University), "A Skill Analysis of Multidigit Multiplication on Application"

Beta Zetans Honored by U. of Hawaii

Two members of Beta Zeta/U. of Hawaii Chapter were honored by the University of Hawaii College of Education Alumni Association May 6 in a ceremony held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Tapa Ballroom.

Janet Ishikawa-Fullmer received the college's Distinguished Alumni Award. She and her husband, **Daniel Fullmer**, have endowed three scholarships for the Pi Lambda Theta Educational Endowment.

Gail Awakuni, principal at Campbell High School in Ewa Beach, received the college's Award of Distinction. Ms. Awakuni is the 2005 National High School Principal of the Year.

PLT Chapters, 2005–2006

(Chapter presidents in parentheses)

Alpha Alpha/U. of Arizona (Marilyn J. Ludwig)

Alpha Delta/UCLA (Patricia H. Streeter)

Alpha Gamma/Boston U. (Carol F. Fredette)

Alpha Kappa/Penn State U. (Jessica A. Hall)

Alpha Omega/Bradley U. (Laura M. Eertmoed)

Alpha Psi/California State, Los Angeles

(Joyce L. Saunders)

Alpha Sigma/Texas Woman's U. (Martha Chawner)

Alpha Tau/Ball State U. (Richard R. Hays)

Alpha Xi/U. of Tennessee (Kathleen C. Bailey)

Alpha/U. of Missouri, Columbia (Erin E. Haggerty)

Beta Chi/William Paterson U. (Alyce Bolander)

Beta Delta/Northern Illinois U.

(Kristine A. Klopotek, Jenifer S. Sparrow)

Beta Epsilon/U. of Wisconsin

(Annette Jackson-Thomas)

Beta Eta/U. of Toledo

(Claudine Meilink, Cynthia Wamsley)

Beta Lambda/U. of Akron (Sheldon B. Wrice)

Beta Nu/U. of Redlands (Celeste M. Lau)

Beta Omicron/Millersville U. (Rebecca H. Meyer)

Beta Sigma/U. of Connecticut

(William Joseph Farr)

Beta Zeta/U. of Hawaii (Robert S. J. Hu)

Central Ohio (Anne M. Hyland)

Chicago Area (Anne Marie Devney)

Cleveland Area (Amy M. Ruminski)

Delta Delta/Duquesne U. (Brandi L. Wynkoop)

Delta Epsilon/Iona College (Deidre A. Sullivan)

Delta Eta/Chaminade U. (Kelli S. Harris)

Delta Zeta/Virginia State U. (Brenda W. Phillips)

Delta/U. of Pittsburgh (Elizabeth A. Svirbel)

Denver Metropolitan (Sue E. Ricker)

Detroit Area (Joan Nardi)

Epsilon/U. of Minnesota (Barbara J. Shin)

Evansville Area (Janet S. Carr)

Fort Wayne Area (Ruby Cain)

Gamma Chi/MidAmerica Nazarene

(Amanda Schwenk)

Gamma Delta/Indiana U., SE (Charlene Handzel)

Gamma Gamma/Indiana U., Kokomo

(Lora J. Reed)

Gamma Iota/U. of Michigan, Dearborn

(Michael P. Mogan)

Gamma Mu/Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (Ann Scott)

Gamma Phi/U. of Pittsburgh, Johnstown

(Matthew H. Krummert)

Gamma Pi/U. of Illinois, Chicago

(Marietta A. Giovannelli)

Gamma Rho/Jackson State U.

(Tiffany A. Chanay)

Gamma Tau/Mount St. Mary's U.

(Joanna M. Kasda)

Gamma Upsilon/Salem State College

(Jennifer R. Maher)

Hawaii (Virgie Chattergy)

Illowa (Elna B. Williams)

Lambda/U. of Chicago (Karen A. Freeman)

Long Beach Area (Tonita F. Tawzer)

Northern California (Susan H. Marston)

Omicron/U. of Nebraska (Lauren R. Hegarty)

Philadelphia Area (Barbara E. Pearl)

Philippines Area (Ofelia M. Carague)

Portland Metropolitan (Sarah Jones)

Rho/New York U. (Ingrid Montealegre)

Sacramento Area (Marjorie C. Beazer)

Santa Barbara Area (Shirley M. Kunze)

Santa Monica Bay Area (Virgie M. Tsuda)

Seattle Area (Julian M. Edelman)

Theta/U. of Iowa (Maria B. Martin)

Toledo Area (Barbara H. Skinner)

Virginia Area (Doris M. James)

Western Pennsylvania (Mary Ann May)



Honor and Recognition 2005



Ashley Reed Curtis **Distinguished Student Scholar Award**

"The Young Veteran"

How many college seniors can list on their résumés "12 years of experience working with children"? For most of her life, it seems, Ashley Reed Curtis has been a dedicated volunteer. Now entering her senior year at the University of Arizona-Tucson, she began her service career back in 1992 as a church nursery aide and has never let up. Before finishing high school, she had also dedicated time to a women and children's shelter as well as another children's center, not to mention a children's rehabilitation clinic. During that time, she attended a magnet high school while simulta-

neously enrolling at a community college.



It was just a prelude to her collegiate career. When not involved working on her double major (bachelor of arts in elementary education and bachelor of

science in special education and rehabilitation with a deaf studies major; expected graduation, spring 2006), Ashley has been busy in the Tucson area volunteering at a grade school; tutoring in reading at the Arizona State School for the Deaf and the Blind (besides coaching the cheerleaders); and teaching at two preschools, including Miles Exploratory Learning Center for deaf and hard-of-hearing students. She has also participated in "Project Yes" for six years.

Despite all the extracurricular activity, Ashley has qualified for the dean's list with distinction each semester she has attended Arizona. In an independent study course she developed a mentoring program for deaf and hard-of-hearing students. This spring she helped plan a field day for her preschool in conjunction with the Center for Hearing Impaired Children, and this summer she is

working in Mexico at a school for the deaf.

Says one faculty member, "Ashley displays amazing skill in dealing with people. She is able to truly listen to people, process what they say, and respond in a thoughtful way." Her academic adviser since she matriculated at Arizona in fall 2002 adds, "Ashley has demonstrated that she has all the qualities of an excellent teacher. She is patient, diligent, and enjoys learning. She has the ability to touch, encourage, and nurture children as has been reported from teachers with whom she has worked."

Audra Skukauskaite **Graduate Student Scholar Award**

"Worlds of Opportunity"

Audra Skukauskaite is a young woman, but educationally at least she has lived several lifetimes. Who among us can claim to have attended K-12 under totalitarianism; college in a new democracy; and graduate school halfway across the world? Even without her formidable work ethic and research skills, Audra's kaleidoscope of classroom experiences would qualify her as the action researcher *par excellence*.

The story begins in 1973 with Audra's birth in Lithuania, then an "autonomous republic" of the Soviet Union. Audra learned her 3 R's under Marxist-Leninism; then, after the sudden collapse of the U.S.S.R., a new world of opportunities, inconceivable under the old regime, opened up to the young woman. First she was able to enroll in the newly created Lithuanian Christian College, an international North American-style liberal arts college, and later she was selected for a semester-long international exchange program across the seas in Winnipeg.

After Audra graduated with top academic honors in 1996, the presidents of both LCC and Fresno Pacific University invited her to enroll in a master's program in TESOL and literature at Fresno. After receiving that

degree, she returned to her homeland to teach TESOL at her alma mater, and while there immersed herself in working with English-language teachers across Lithuania, organizing workshops and lectures that featured internationally recognized educators. In 2001 Audra was invited to give a keynote address at the conference focused on the European Year of Languages.

By then Audra had attended school on two continents, in three countries, and under four governments. Her steadfast commitment to academics and leadership earned her admission in 2001 to the doctoral program in the University of California-Santa Barbara Gevirtz Graduate School of Education. Beginning work on her dissertation, "Intended and Unintended Consequences

of Educational Reforms in Lithuania," she has, as they say, continued to impress.



An associate dean says, "Audra's dissertation research is extremely important in this time of unprecedented geopolitical change.

... Audra will unquestionably become an extremely important figure in educational reform both nationally and globally." A full professor adds, "Audra is one of the most remarkable students with whom I have worked in more than 30 years as a research mentor and university teacher. She is a theoretically driven researcher, a brilliant scholar, and an involved and committed educator and professional."

Barbara Martin-Palmer **Outstanding Faculty Adviser Award**

"The Personal Touch"

The first and lasting impression one receives of Barbara Martin-Palmer, the faculty adviser to Gamma

Tau/Mount St. Mary's Chapter since 1997, is that of leadership by example, a meticulous kindness that permeates her dual roles as a faculty member and chapter adviser. In the classroom she is known for modeling the kind of teaching-by-example that she believes her students should take one day to the classroom; within the chapter—a healthy one that she has led to two Chapter of Honor citations since 1997—she is the beau ideal of a thorough and thoughtful administrator and mentor.

Dr. Martin-Palmer, the newly appointed chair of the Mount's department of education in 2004, has been a member of the faculty since 1993. In the classroom she teaches her students how they one day can instill the love of reading in their own students. Her classroom teaching experience was developed previously in community college and high school. "Dr. Palmer communicates with me on a



level that no other professor does," says one undergraduate Thetan, and other chapter members who have taken classes under her echo those comments.

With in Gamma Tau Chapter she has been a steady presence since 1997—opening lines of communication, constantly checking on financial and administrative matters, keeping the name of Pi Lambda Theta in the forefront of the department of education. A portion of her modest-size office is dedicated solely to PLT materials. She reports on chapter progress at faculty meetings and makes sure that the department newsletter mentions the chapter frequently. No task is too trivial for her. She assists the chapter treasurer with documenting receipts and check stubs and monitors the chapter's monthly bank statement. When funds were needed for Gamma Tau's 2004 Regional Conference presentation, she solicited the funding from her university contacts, rustled up the department camera to bring along, drove the participants to New York City, and then posted the photos on the PLT bulletin board she maintains on campus.

It is in the personal realm, how-

ever, where Dr. Martin-Palmer's approach has its greatest impact. She stays in touch with all chapter members, and she ensures leadership continuity by recruiting and maintaining a strong executive board. She kicks off each school year with a get-acquainted chapter picnic and annually holds a meeting in her home as well. Even after accepting the chairmanship of her department last year, she kept up her chapter duties, never missing a single meeting. In turn, her example has inspired young Thetans and demonstrated what they too might accomplish in their careers and with the association.

Janet Duguay Kirsten
Joseph W. Underwood
Nadeen Burkeholder Williams
Music Scholarship

"Harmonic Convergence"

The Nadeen Burkeholder Williams Scholarship commenced in 1994 with a generous gift from the estate of Ms. Williams.

Three years later the 1997 Biennial Council voted to accept NBPTS certification as a membership criteria.

This year, those seemingly unconnected events converged when the first dual award of the Williams Scholarship was announced—and not one but both recipients proved to be National Board-certified teachers. Nor was it a surprise to learn that both individuals are preparing for the doctoral degree. (The fact that they both teach in Miami schools is, however, pure coincidence.)

To no one's surprise, both recipients had compiled lengthy lists of accomplishments long before receiving their scholarships. Janet Duguay Kirsten is a "musician's musician," a teacher, performer, and composer with a wide knowledge of different musical techniques; an adjunct professor of music education; and the director of a small music group. Joseph W. Underwood presents a less-conventional footprint in the music community: he has been a nationally recognized pioneer in entertainment technologies at the same time that he

served as his high school's head athletic trainer.

Ms. Kirsten is a music specialist at Claude Pepper Elementary School in Miami, where she has taught since 1995. She was National Board-certified in early/middle childhood music in 2003. Mr. Underwood, who is in his 20th year of teaching at Miami High School, was



board-certified in 2003 in youth/adolescent to adult education.

Of Ms. Kirsten's teaching abilities, the Williams Scholarship Committee states that she is "an effective teacher, musician, and

composer who has a wide scope of knowledge in the use of ostinato, unpitched instruments, Kodaly, and Orff techniques. She displays a unique sensitivity in training young children's voices, all of which are important in music education." Kirsten's doctoral dissertation will involve a national survey to investigate the extent to which music instruction is being implemented in pre-K classrooms in the United States.

"It is a bold study because of its scope, and will be a real contribution to the profession regarding the status of



music education in preschools today," says Dr. Joyce Jordan, chair and professor of music education at the University of Miami. No study of this proportion has ever been done. She hopes to involve around 6,000 pre-K class-

room teachers in daycare and preschool settings, both public and private."

Of Mr. Underwood, the fine arts chair at Miami High says: "Not only is [he] infusing music into his curriculum, he is exposing his students to music in other ways as well." In his years at MHS, Underwood has expanded his program from "TV production" into an award-winning Academy for Entertainment Technologies, including the Miami High

School MovieMakers class. He is the executive producer of Stingtown News (MHS's live, daily telecast) and the Miami High MovieMaker program. His students use music in various ways to enhance their commercials and public service announcements; his movie-making classes are encouraged to compose original music to help story progress.

Says Underwood: "Our movie makers also were fortunate to record an original rap video for one of my students, which led to the inclusion of three of his original songs in a national documentary entitled *Dear Mr. President* [Turning Point Ventures], which played at Sundance Film Festival."

Kathleen Mucha
Janyce Yoshizawa Excellence in Classroom Teaching Award

"The Natural Resource"

In Naugatuck, Connecticut, there is a teacher who, amid a diverse population, manages to individualize instruction for everyone's learning styles. In the classroom she creates a family atmosphere, such that a brash newcomer to the class is taken aside by the other students



and told, "We don't talk to Mrs. Mucha like that." Students sit in groups, pairs, or even on a rug while Mrs. Mucha facilitates discussions. After the discussion group, there are hands-on activities

in which to engage.

If Kathleen Mucha were playing softball, they would say that she touches all the bases. Fishing, she would be the compleat angler. As an adventure hero, the Bionic Woman comes to mind. Kathleen seems to have read everything worth knowing about teaching in the 21st century and implemented every recommendation, and when she is finished giving her kids the best year of their lives, she spreads the word throughout the building and even the district

with evangelical thoroughness. Says her principal, "It is not unusual to receive a phone call from Kathy because she is excited about a new professional book and she can't wait to share it."

In a more formal role, Mucha serves on her school's Reading Council, Assessment Committee, Report Card Revision Committee, Library Committee, Project ACES (All Children Exercising Simultaneously), Language Arts Committee, Early Intervention Team (core member and case partner), and Social Studies Textbook Committee. Nor are these committees mere window-dressing. For instance, the Language Arts Committee was instrumental in transferring research into sound classroom practices that became part of a new curriculum. Kathleen presented it to her colleagues at workshops. No wonder she is considered "a resource for teachers in the building and throughout the district."

The classroom and the children, though, are where Kathleen's focus always returns. One year, a former student recalls, she created a movie for each student ("a sort of video slide show of our class pictures that Mrs. Mucha took throughout the year"); another remembers making ice cream, edible quilt patches, spider cupcakes, and the *pièce de résistance*—edible Christmas trees.

Now, *that's* innovative teaching!

Frances W. Siu
Janet Ishikawa-Daniel Fullmer Scholarship in Counseling

"Dream Catcher"

Frances Siu has traveled a long and winding road to find her métier in doctoral-level counseling training. Hong Kong was the first stop, where she was born and raised as a Vietnamese Chinese immigrant. Then it was on to East Los Angeles, where she began to climb the ladder in the white-collar world, first as a legal secretary, then as an executive assistant and an assistant vice president for a financial securities firm.

Her family's dream of producing a college graduate remained yet unfulfilled. In 1998, as a single mother, Frances enrolled at East Los Angeles College, a community college, and

by 2002 she had earned her associate's degree in liberal arts. Dean's list status enabled her to transfer to Cal State-Los Angeles, where, she says, "I have become part of a multi-cultural group and learned to become more culturally competent."

Frances developed an interest in serving people with disabilities. By 2003 she had earned a B.A. in psychology and enrolled in CSLA's rehabilitation counselor graduate education program. She applied for and received the school's McNair Scholarship for her work on domestic violence and prevention strategies and became graduate assistant to the coordinator of the rehabilitation counselor education program. All the



while, to support her family, she worked as a quality management system coordinator for an electronics manufacturer.

"Frances builds rapport easily and generates an atmosphere of acceptance," notes a CSLA professor.

Since entering graduate school, she has made nine professional presentations in addition to six publications within refereed journals and magazines (with two more articles in press as of this writing, one a paper that earned the 2004 annual student paper award for the International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals). Through the California Pre-Doctoral Scholarship Program, Frances was able to visit doctoral programs at the University of Texas-Austin, University of Maryland-College Park, and San Diego State University.

Last summer she performed a summer research internship at UT-Austin, where she developed an online domestic violence awareness course for the school's rehabilitation-counseling graduate students. Frances hopes to use her scholarship to attend Texas this fall. Her goal? "Eventually, I would like to establish and administer an online master's level rehabilitation counselor education program for one of the universities in the California state university system."

Rachel Richardson
Lillian and Henry Barry Award
in Human Relations

"Home Run!"

Rachel Richardson, an elementary education major at Oklahoma Christian University in Oklahoma City and the recipient of the 2005 Lillian and Henry Barry Award in Human Relations, began babysitting exceptional children early in her college career to help pay her tuition. After time and again seeing the children's isolation and limited opportunities to engage in activities other children take for granted, Rachel had an idea.

Dr. Jeanine Varner, an administrator at OCU, describes how Rachel has put the idea into action—and enriched the lives of everyone involved:



"The first snapshot is a picture of a typical Exceptionals Tee-Ball League game night, October 9, 2004. At 4:30 p.m., 21 students from a

required freshman seminar course at the university arrived at the gymnasium of Quail Springs Church of Christ to prepare for their service project. Rachel had spoken earlier to these university students to prepare them to serve the members of the league effectively. She'd told them to expect to interact with children who had a variety of disabilities; to expect children as young as five years old and as old as 15 or 16; to expect some children who seemed normal physically and some children who could not walk or hold the bat. The students were uneasy, not sure whether they were prepared to serve in this way.

"As the Exceptionals team arrived with their parents and siblings, Rachel welcomed them and assigned each child one or two 'buddies' to push the wheelchair, hold and swing the bat if necessary, and cheer the child on—literally all the way around the bases. The college students rose to the occasion, and within minutes, everyone in the gym—the children, parents and siblings, college 'buddies,' and Rachel—were engaged in a noisy, high-energy, and thoroughly delightful tee-ball game, a game in which every person involved was a winner.

"The second snapshot is a picture

of a celebration night a few weeks later, on Make a Difference Day, October 23, 2004. The setting is the same, the church gym. The children are the same children—children with cerebral palsy, with Down syndrome, with an array of serious medical problems. But they are at a team party, which will last from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m., long enough for their parents to leave them and enjoy an evening out. The children are met by a different group of freshman seminar students. These 'buddies' play games, give the kids snacks, sing and laugh, and celebrate like any other tee-ball team at the end of a great season."

Rachel began the Exceptionals League in 2003. Participants have a variety of conditions: cerebral palsy, seizure disorders, Prader-Willi syndrome, Angelman syndrome, hydrocephalus, and Down syndrome. All games are played indoors. Each team member receives a team t-shirt, personalized trophy and medal, team photo, water bottle and goodie bag, catered awards dinner, and a personalized Bible.

Hundreds of volunteers from the university and the church, as well as siblings and friends of the participants, have helped Rachel with the Exceptionals Tee-Ball League since its inception. Play ball!

Denise Tiffany
Thelma Jean Brown Classroom
Teacher Award

"Tiffany's Ark"

What do you do when your school enrolls scores of students from dozens of countries, including among others Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Korea, Japan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Congo, Bulgaria, France, Iceland, Mexico, Honduras, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, and Guatemala?

It will help to have on staff a French and German speaker also conversant with Chinese, Swedish, Korean, and Russian, and currently brushing up on her Spanish. Better yet, she will be active in all phases of school life, from individualizing instruction, to developing a peer-tutoring program that matches her students with other students for help on classwork and general support and friendship, to writing a tutor booklet.

She will hold workshops on mak-

ing other teachers aware of how the ESL learner sees school and homework; develop a pronunciation chart for each teacher to help with pronouncing the students' names; talk to each individual student daily to monitor both personal and academic progress; and pick up a few things about each student's native language, not just pronouncing names correctly but learning as much as she can about each person. Even more, she will advocate additional support for students who struggle in mainstream classes.

But how would we be certain just what all this activity accomplished? Well, we might consider testimony from her students; parents; a French teacher; a German teacher; a science teacher;



the assistant principal; the principal; and a former ESL student teacher now working half a continent away. There would be the 2004 Iowa City Human Rights Youth Awards

for the peer-tutoring program, which would expand into one of the school's most popular service programs. The students would create their own booklet, *We Are the New Iowans*, and write of the journey to America, of their setbacks and accomplishments, their hopes and desires.

Perhaps best of all, after twenty years a former student, now a Harvard University faculty member, would stop by on his way to visit his homeland in Korea. He and his brother, a doctoral student in biochemistry at Northwestern University, would make their special mid-continental stop at Iowa City to honor the woman who helped their adjustment to American life. These former pupils would say things like, "We wanted to see Iowa again. More than anything, we wanted to see Mrs. Tiffany again and tell her that we have been still thinking of her after all these years."

That would be evidence in favor of Denise Tiffany, English as a Second Language teacher and department chair at West High School, and the 2005 recipient of the Thelma Jean Brown Classroom Teacher Award.

Never underestimate the power of "TEAL"!*

- **I promise** that during the coming months PLT will deliver tools that will allow you to enhance your effectiveness in providing leadership to cope with No Child Left Behind and responding proactively to other serious challenges facing education today.
- **I challenge you** to join other Thetans: share your own successes and learn from their successes so you can provide effective local leadership.

—International President Rita Jones

* "The Educator as Leader" is the 2003 PLT Leadership Conference participants' consensus response to No Child Left Behind and other challenges that face educators today. PLT will be part of that initiative. Watch our Web site!



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CAREER SERVICES NETWORK

A comprehensive, three-part job referral service for members of Pi Lambda Theta

PLT JobList

This service is available to all PLT members at www.pilambda.org. Employers can list their jobs on-line with JobList at no charge. Supplemental hot links are provided to education job listings on dozens of Web sites.

PLT JobMatch

PLT JobMatch taps Thetan **Career Partners** to help in a member's job search. The country is divided into about 100 job search areas based on the number of Career Partners in each area (typically 10 to 20). As a member benefit, PLT will distribute a member's résumé to the Career Partners in any one search area each calendar year FREE. A résumé can be distributed to additional search area for a nominal fee. Find the national list of search areas and register entirely on-line at www.pilambda.org, or call 1-800-487-3411.

PLT Career Partners

More than 1,000 members have volunteered to assist other members with job searches in their geographic areas. Career Partners receive résumés of all appropriate JobMatch participants.

A listing of cities and states that are currently covered appears at www.pilambda.org.

Pi Lambda Theta



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- Dobbs research award \$ _____
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- Tracey award—service to seniors \$ _____

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- Beta Chi scholarship (Beta Chi/William Paterson University) \$ _____
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