



Richmond Conference Leads PLT into a New Era

by Liz Douglass, PLT International President

What a wonderful conference we had in Richmond this July! When I arrived I was unsure of how it would all come together. I knew that the program was going to be good, but I had no idea of the deep imprint it would leave in my heart.



Liz Douglass

Herb Walberg presented us with multiple reasons that education is so important for child development. He reaffirmed many beliefs I already hold. Parents and teachers truly influence the development of a child. When parents can't provide the atmosphere for learning, teachers need to try to ensure that the school is an encouraging place for child development. Teachers spend valuable time with kids, and we need to make the most of it!

Teaching with your strengths is the way to ensure that your time is well spent. You will feel better about your teaching when you develop your talents, and your students will learn

more from a teacher who truly loves our profession. I cannot say enough about the power of positive psychology.

Everyone knows that you can motivate people more with encouragement. Well, Gary Gordon from The Gallup Organization provided the hard data surrounding how much more: students gain on tests by leaps and bounds when they have public praise. Students are also more likely to attend class when the teachers are empowered by the positive. I can't wait to share *Teach With Your Strengths* with my colleagues. I now know that being so encouraging isn't "being too nice"—it is the right road to take. Personally, I am going to be constantly looking for the opportunity for encouragement. I hope you will be looking for the good in your surroundings too.



Gary Gordon of Gallup makes a point.

D. Konczal



The Endowment dinner, well-attended as usual.

M. Shemin

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Board Expands V.P. Eligibility; 2009 Conference Restructured

The James River Room at the Omni Richmond Hotel was the setting at 7:30 p.m., July 27, as President **Rita Jones** called the 45th Biennial Council of Pi Lambda Theta International to order. In the next two hours, the delegates, representing the chapters of PLT and its board of directors, took the following actions:

- Expanded the qualifications for the office of international vice president. As a result, members at large are now eligible to run for international office.
- Amended the PLT mission statement to read: *"Pi Lambda Theta's mission is to honor outstanding educators and inspire their leadership on critical education issues."*
- Allowed chapters to induct members before participating in an initiation ceremony.
- Expanded the qualifications for PLT student vice president to include students enrolled in a credential program that requires a graduate degree.
- Clarified the qualifications for the office of PLT treasurer.

President Jones recognized **Georgia W. Kimball**, who is retiring

after more than 14 years as PLT's parliamentarian. Past International President **Marjorie Souers** conducted the installation ceremony for three offices filled by last spring's election: president, **Elizabeth Douglass**; first vice president, **Joanna McLaughlin**; and vice president, **Ruby Cain**.

Board Action. The PLT board met both before and after the conference. It voted to hold the July 2009 Biennial Council in conjunction with the teacher-leader conference to be held by the National Staff Development Council (NSDC) in Boston. The board also authorized PLT to promote the NSDC annual teacher-leader conference in non-council (even-numbered) years as well, beginning with the 2008 NSDC conference in Orlando, July 13–16. (For further details, see "Richmond Conference Leads PLT into a New Era," top of page.)

The board also appointed **Shane Horn**, a student at the University of North Florida, to fill the vacant post of undergraduate student vice president. Mr. Horn, a U.S. Air Force veteran, is the 2007 PLT Distinguished Student Scholar. The holder of two associate's degrees, he is majoring in social studies education.

Reflections on 14 Years as an Officer of Pi Lambda Theta

by Rita J. Jones, PLT President, 2003–2007

It was at my third PLT international board meeting that I saw clearly how my goals as a teacher converged with PLT's. Our board consultant, the late Steve Kingsford, took us through an exercise in which we boiled down what PLT was all about: *the student*. From that meeting on, I have never had any doubts that PLT's goals and those of its members were what they should be, and that my time was well spent as a board member helping to pursue them.

During my fourteen years of board service, PLT has passed many landmarks:

- Under the management of Executive Director Ogden Hamilton, the international office was reinvented. With capable, devoted staff, the office assumed a firm leadership role and freed the board from the weight of operating responsibilities.

- The Educational Trust was separately incorporated as our PLT Educational Endowment. As a result, the funds are safer and they realize a better return on investment: the endowment's funds have grown to more than one million dollars.

- The Direct Honors program was established. That allowed qualifying students from cooperating institutions to join even if the institutions did not wish to support full chapters on their campuses.

- PLT JobMatch and the Career Partners program were introduced. Now Thetans use an established program to help other Thetans secure jobs.

- National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification was introduced as a new way to qualify for PLT membership. That was PLT's first tentative step beyond reliance on academic grade point average as the eligibility criterion.

- Qualifying students at community colleges with rigorous teacher-preparation programs were granted eligibility. That represented a gratifying recognition on the part of our delegates that excellence is found not in four-year institutions alone.

- The philosophy of NBPTS recognition was extended to dozens of prestigious awards for excellence in education. Again, the delegates showed gratifying flexibility and vision in recognizing that excellence is found not in scholastic work alone.

- **educational HORIZONS** returned to a format reminiscent of its original journal format, and its standing among educators, especially the librarians who specialize in reference material, has reached new heights.

- We introduced The Gallup Organization's strengths-based education to our members in both K–12 and higher education.

- Most recently, we have initiated a partnership with the National Staff Development Council (NSDC) that promises to make the very best professional development available to our members on favorable terms.

Scenes from a Presidency



Rita Jones was elected president of PLT in 2003 after a decade of service as vice president and first vice president. From her home in Northern California, she crisscrossed the United States in her four years of presidential leadership, including appearances at (left) the 2005 biennial council in New Orleans; (center) the 2006 Great Lakes Region II conference in Milwaukee; and earlier that year, the Far West Region V conference in Honolulu.

The winter 2003 board meeting in Boston was a watershed of a different sort. Past board members and other PLT leaders were invited to participate in a three-day task force that validated the board's vision

statement, core values, and strategic goals. For the first time in many, many years PLT's leaders, past and present, were of one accord in expressing what the association stands for and what it should be doing.

From that task force came developments that spoke not so much about what PLT does as about how PLT relates to its members:

- a succinct, substantive mission statement
- direct voting by members for PLT Board members—"One Member–One Vote"—which brought members at large into the governance process for the first time
- The Educator As Leader (TEAL), which provided chapters with a practical, documented paradigm for engaging members in actively pursuing the mission
- "Be It Resolved," which allowed Thetans to construct and vote on resolutions that reflect a membership consensus about critical issues in education

If my successor, Liz Douglass, serves all four years the bylaws allow a president to serve, she, too, will have spent 14 years on the board when her time as president is up. I know there will be more landmarks added to my own list. I also know that under her leadership, PLT will never lose sight of what makes it all worthwhile: doing better for the student.

2007 Pi Lambda Theta Leadership Conference & Biennial Council



R. Cain



J. Lewis



R. Cain

Thetans gathered in Richmond this July for the familiar rounds of reunions and introductions, soon followed by the more serious business of attending general sessions and breakouts, regional meetings, and the PLT Biennial Council. (Left) **Lesley Murata-Paige**, Seattle Area Chapter co-president, and **Frances Shimotsu**, past international president. (Center) **Rita Jones**, immediate past international president, with **Ruby Cain**, newly elected vice president.

Virginia Area Chapter members poured their time and energy into conference preparation and presentation, including a highly successful pair of historical tours: one of Richmond proper and the other of Jamestown (top right), which has been celebrating its 400th anniversary this year. Virginia Area members also ran a book drive that netted 237 donations from conference-goers.

Chapter Awards

Meeting All Deadlines During Biennium

Alpha Delta/University of California, Los Angeles
Virginia Area

Increasing Total of Initiates Each Year of Biennium

Alpha/University of Missouri
Beta Epsilon/University of Wisconsin
Beta Lambda/University of Akron
Gamma Lambda/Niagara University
Detroit Area

Area Chapter with Most Initiates, 1st Year of Biennium

Sacramento Area (40)

Campus Chapter with Most Initiates, 1st Year of Biennium

Delta/University of Pittsburgh (136)

Area Chapter with Most Initiates, 2nd Year of Biennium

Philadelphia Area (37)

Campus Chapter with Most Initiates, 2nd Year of Biennium

Beta Sigma/University of Connecticut (76)

Area Chapter with Most Initiates, Combined Years of Biennium

Philadelphia Area (65)

Campus Chapter with Most Initiates, Combined Years of Biennium

Beta Chi /William Paterson University (154)

Chapters of Honor, 1st Year of Biennium

Alpha Psi/Calif. State University—Los Angeles
Sacramento Area
Virginia Area

Chapters of Honor, 2nd Year of Biennium

Alpha Gamma/Boston University
Beta Zeta/University of Hawaii
Hawaii Area
Philadelphia Area
Sacramento Area

Individual Awards - Scholarships

Distinguished Student Scholar

Shane Allen Horn

Scepter and Key

Jean Gould Wright – Detroit Area

Distinguished Pi Lambda Thetan Award

Janet S. Ishikawa-Fullmer – Hawaii Area

Nadeen Burkeholder Williams Music Scholarship

Danielle M. Cullen – Member at Large (2006)

Sara Chandler Trotman Womack – Member at Large (2006)

Rochelle Hume – Member at Large (2007)

Kathy Robison – Member at Large (2007)

Outstanding Area Chapter

Sacramento Area

Authors Workshop

Barbara Pearl,
Math in Motion:
Origami in the Classroom
Mathemáticas en
Movimiento:
Origami en el Salón
Mary Katherine Clark,
Relationship Parenting:
A Guide to Family
Connection
Rosalie Contino,
Born to Create

Chapter/Region Exhibits

<u>Chapter/Region</u>	<u>Program</u>
Alpha Psi	Alpha Psi
Hawaii Area	Hawaii Area
Seattle Area	Seattle Area
Virginia Area	Virginia Area
Virginia Area	Virginia Area
Beta Zeta	Virginia Area
Hawaii Area	Virginia Area
Philippines Area	Beta Chi
Philippines Area	Philippines Area
Virginia Area	Seattle Area
Virginia Area	Virginia Area

Chapter, Region, & Member News

“Through the Looking Glass: Bridging the Gap Between Secondary Schools & College” will be the theme of the 2008 Great Lakes Region II Conference, to be held June 13–14, 2008, at the Toledo Hilton. (Reserve one of the PLT block of rooms by calling the Hilton at (419) 381-6800.) For more information, click on Leadership Conferences at www.pilambda.org or contact Sheldon B. Wrice, co-chair, (330) 972-6023 (swrice1@uakron.edu), or Doris Hedler, co-chair, (419) 531-3427 (dhedler2002@yahoo.com).

DISSERTATIONS



Andrews

Karen Ziemer Andrews (Alliant International University), “The Effects of Implicit and Explicit Instruction on Simple and Complex Grammatical Structures for Adult English Language Learners”

Jan Rice (University of Kansas), “The Effect of Collaborative Group Testing and Selected Demographic Variables on Student Performance on Written Examinations”

Beta Chi Presents Something Old, Something New

As part of its ongoing scholarship program, Beta Chi/William Paterson U. Chapter recently announced two scholarships for the 2007–2008 school year.

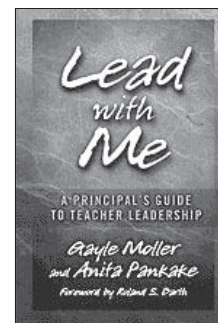
For the second year, the chapter has presented **Stephen Schlitzer** a \$1,000 scholarship. Stephen is a junior majoring

in physical education. He has been a dean’s list student since his arrival at William Paterson U. A student-athlete, Stephen pitches for WPU’s baseball squad and has also served as the team’s manager.

Beta Chi has also announced that **Heather Turner**, a WPU junior majoring in physical education, will receive a one-time scholarship award of \$500. Heather, a dean’s list student, carries a GPA of 3.85. She is an outstanding gymnast; a Jersey Optional Gymnastics Association (JOGA) coach; and the gymnastic coach for a state team of 40 girls. She is hopeful of obtaining an assistant gymnastic coach position at Wayne Hills, N.J., this fall. Not one to sit still, Heather is also the captain for WPU intramural soccer, and she is working to establish a gymnastic club on campus.

—Martha Shemin

Lead with Me: A Principal’s Guide to Teacher Leadership, is the latest book from **Anita Pankake** (Alpha Sigma/Texas Woman’s U. Chapter). Dr. Pankake is Professor of Educational Leadership at the University of Texas–Pan American. The book, co-authored with Dr. Gayle Moller, is available from Eye on Education, Larchmont, N.Y.



In Memoriam

June Abbey (<i>Omega</i>)	Mary Knowles (<i>Chi</i>)
Earlie Anderson (<i>Beta Zeta</i>)	Elizabeth Lonkey (<i>A. Nu</i>)
Ruth Andrisevic (<i>Gamma Chi</i>)	Karen Lopp (<i>MAL</i>)
Gigi Carson (<i>Beta Sigma</i>)	Beatrice Lynch
Julia Cavitt (<i>Beta Delta</i>)	(<i>No. Indiana, MAL</i>)
Thomas Culliton (<i>A. Gamma</i>)	Jefferie Moore (<i>Denver</i>)
Jean Currey (<i>A. Beta, Ga. Area</i>)	Lola Ramsey (<i>Alpha, MAL</i>)
Eleanor Donecker (<i>A. Omega</i>)	Elizabeth Rice (<i>Delta</i>)
SueAnn Drelick (<i>MAL</i>)	Consuelo Shaw (<i>Seattle</i>)
Darlene Ellis (<i>MAL</i>)	Johanna Sijmons (<i>Beta Chi</i>)
Marian Fleming (<i>Detroit</i>)	Daisy Takacs (<i>Beta Eta, Toledo</i>)
Maurine Grammer	Nadeen Waggener
(<i>A. Nu, MAL</i>)	(<i>A. Zeta, K.C. Area</i>)
Linda Hendrick (<i>A. Phi, MAL</i>)	Elizabeth Wilson (<i>A. Pi, Detroit</i>)
Nina Hutcherson (<i>Alpha Psi</i>)	Mildred Wittick (<i>Lambda, MAL</i>)
Joseph Klein (<i>Beta Chi</i>)	Carolyn Wylie (<i>A. Delta</i>)

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

THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTERS ARE GETTING TOGETHER . . .

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Application deadline January 15, 2008. For more information, visit www.pilambda.org, click on Governance, and go to "How to run for office."

5 Student Support Scholarships Announced for 2007–2008

Richard Hays, PLT Scholarship Committee chair, has announced the selection of five college and university students as the recipients of the 2007–2008 PLT Student Support Scholarships.

- **Erin E. Doherty** (Iona College), M.S. in literacy education
- **Lynn Gerhard** (Gainesville State College), B.S. in early childhood education
- **Elyse Holovak** (Penn State), B.S. in education
- **Jody Nissen** (Hastings College), MAT in elementary and special education
- **Kimberly Silveira** (Gamma Upsilon/Salem State College), master's in reading

Funded in full by a "checkoff" option on individual Thetans' annual dues, the \$750 scholarships assist students with tuition and books. Both full- and part-time students are eligible. Applications for next year's Student Support Scholarships are due by February 10, 2008. For more details, see Scholarships/Grants/Awards at www.pilambda.org.

Teaching the Whole Child

by Jody Nissen, 2007 recipient
Student Support Scholarship

I believe that teachers must prepare the whole child to be a productive adult. As a part of this preparation, it is important to connect to students to motivate them to learn and provide a positive learning environment.



Jody Nissen

Teachers spend an average of eight hours per day with their students. These children bring the baggage of their home life to school. A teacher cannot effectively teach children if their baggage is ignored. In a world of violence, drugs, single parenting, divorce, and both parents working outside the home, teachers are in a position to be a huge influence on children and the choices that they make.

Another important aspect of a child's learning is the learning environment. Schools need to be a place where children feel safe so that they are eager to learn. The classroom environment should be a place where it is OK to make a mistake. I believe that a classroom should be filled with hands-on learning stations. It is so important for children to experience learning rather than simply regurgitate what they heard.

In summary, I think teachers should educate children to think for themselves. Learning should be hands-on. We also have a responsibility to teach values in a structured, secure environment. Life is so much more complicated than it used to be, and teachers are positioned to have a great impact on students' lives.

Richmond Conference *continued from page 1*

I think we all want the best for every student that we know. We really need to try and find the best ways to teach each individual student. According to Steven Strull from the National School Reform Faculty, learning is negotiated between the student and the teacher at every moment. I have to agree that if someone doesn't want to learn you can't force that student to. However, as the educator, you are responsible for allowing the student to feel the atmosphere is conducive for learning. You are responsible for encouraging your students to take chances and learn. You are also responsible for your own learning. Hopefully, you have a small group of teachers who are committed to working together to improve teaching and learning. Hopefully, you have a learning community of your own. I have been encouraged to create one of my own because I want to be the best teacher that I can be!

Remembering that all that I say and do is about students, I left Richmond floating on air. After attending several wonderful sessions, I left with what seemed to be a million ideas and initiatives. I felt as if I could become the best teacher ever and I could convince others to strive for excellence too. I am grateful to have been part of the synergy created at that conference. I have more energy for teaching than ever, and I can't wait to teach!



President Jones meets President Douglass

And speaking of synergy: you may be wondering about the next biennial conference. Well, in 2008 we're joining conference forces with the National Staff Development Council. You may be doing the math and thinking that isn't two years away—and you're correct. We're teaming with NSDC in 2009 too! I see this arrangement providing loads of opportunities for our members. We will have more workshops to choose from. We will have a larger venue to visit with more premium locations! And the best part is that NSDC's specialization in staff development offers a more diverse program than we could ever dream of.



The conference featured dozens of sessions.

You may be concerned about losing our Biennial Council traditions. I do understand that. We plan to keep our ceremonies and recognition pieces as a part of the conference. Next year, we will be basically visiting the NSCD conference in Orlando to see how that can work in 2009. We don't want our attendees to miss out on something big at the conference. We are working with NSDC so we can meet our members' needs and continue to serve them throughout the conference. I am looking forward to this adventure. I think we can all be prepared to be energized again next year!

Never underestimate the power of "TEAL" . . .

"The Teacher As Leader": PLT-sponsored workshops that instruct participants how to become more effective agents of constructive change in education.

- Acquire tools that will allow you to provide leadership and respond proactively to other challenges facing education today.
- Share your own successes with other Thetans and learn from their successes so you can provide effective local leadership.
- Contribute to a Web-based discussion forum and knowledge base where others can comment, question, and learn.



To begin your TEAL journey, visit www.pilambda.org and look for the TEAL symbol.



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

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. PLT will distribute a member's résumé to the Career Partners in any one of more than 100 U.S. search areas each calendar year FREE. Distribute your résumé to additional search areas for a nominal fee. Find the national list of search areas and register on-line at www.pilambda.org, or call 1-800-487-3411.

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