

Breakout Speaker Biographies

Ghana Library Authority: Christine Wolf, Chi, Assistant Director of Global and International Studies at UW-Milwaukee

The Global Studies program at UW-Milwaukee is working with a new initiative through the Ghanaian library system called the Youth Engagement project. Christine will talk about how this project focuses on youth, ages 14-24, who are interested in gaining knowledge and skills around career preparation and leadership including providing “a safe and inclusive environment for young people.”

Christine holds a BA in History and a certificate in Women’s Studies from UW-Milwaukee and an MS in Political Science and Community and Economic Development from Illinois State University. She is a Ph.D. candidate at Cardinal Stritch University in Educational Leadership. Christine is presently working on a partnership with the Ghanaian Library Authority based in Accra. The Library Authority is bringing literacy and educational opportunities throughout Ghana, particularly for youth.

Racine County Underground Railroad: A Pathway to Learn, Share, and Reflect on Americas’s Obscure Past: Pauline Mitchell, Pi, retired high school educator from Racine Unified School District.

“The Underground Railroad was a secretive network of people who helped slaves escape to the northern United States, Canada, the Seminole reservation in Florida, Mexico, California and Central American to gain freedom. The network was loosely organized, but incredibly effective. To be a part of this network was to be part of a risky illegal movement. Racine County was home to some of those stations. From Racine fugitive slaves would travel either over land or through the harbor via ship to freedom in Canada.” racineheritagemuseum.omeka.net

Pauline is a founding member of the Professional Women’s Network for Service, Inc. Pauline graduated with a BS degree in mathematics from Paine College, Augusta, Georgia, in 1962, and an MAT degree from Stanford University in Palo Alto, California, in 1969 using a National Science Foundation Fellowship. After teaching mathematics and science in several school districts in Georgia, she and her husband migrated with their family to Racine, Wisconsin, toward the end of the 1960s Civil Rights Movement and studied at UW-Madison; took teacher internships at IBM in Endicott, New York, and Unico in Franksville, Wisconsin; and completed a humanities study at Jesus College, Cambridge University, Cambridge, England, sponsored by Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland.

Educational Panel: Lori Ladiges; Mary Jane Carreno, Pi; Kim DeTennis, Zeta; Kelsy Rusch, Zeta

Topics to be covered include gaps in student learning due to pandemic, teacher shortages, substitute shortages, gaps in social skills, challenges with classroom management, and student mental health issues.

Lori Ladiges is a longtime teacher, teacher-educator, and educational consultant with over 40 years of experience in general education, special education, and literacy. She taught at Kohler Public Schools for 20 years as a learning disabilities specialist, K-12. Lori was a full-time professor for 17 years at Cardinal Stritch University training preservice and in-service teachers in the areas of literacy, special education, and nursing education. In addition, she advised action research students and practicum students, and served in various leadership roles at Cardinal Stritch University. Lori has also taught at Silver Lake College in Manitowoc and at Concordia University Wisconsin in Mequon. Recently she was a literacy interventionist (K-5) in the Sheboygan Area School District for five years. She continues to

teach as an adjunct professor at Cardinal Stritch University, a part-time Title 1 Reading Teacher in the Sheboygan Area School District, a private tutor in reading and math, and an educational consultant. Lori has a BSE from UW-Whitewater with a dual major in regular and special education. She has an MA from Cardinal Stritch University in Learning Disabilities. Lori holds a lifetime teaching license in the following areas: Learning Disabilities, Intellectual Disabilities, Reading Teacher, and Elementary/Middle Level Education.

Mary Jane is Professor of Education/Supervisor UW Platteville. Online Content/Credit Recovery Teacher – Racine Unified School District/Wisconsin eSchools. Currently, she has been appointed by Phi Delta Kappa International as a "National Scholarship Reviewer 2023" for high school seniors. This year 2023, marks her 54th consecutive year in the field of education. She is an accomplished and devoted educator as a Professor of Education and an Online Virtual Learning Teacher. She has served in a variety of roles as a regular and special education teacher for grades PK- 12 along with serving several different types of administrator positions. Her higher education experiences include university and college in education for both graduate and undergraduate levels along with supervising student teachers and clinical experiences accordingly. Mary Jane has a BS in Physical Education and Health from UW-Whitewater; an MSE in Physical Education and Health from UW-Whitewater; an MSE in Administrative Leadership from UW-Whitewater; an MS in Curriculum and Instruction from UW-Milwaukee; Doctoral Studies in Curriculum and Instruction at UW-Madison; and most recently she completed a three-year appointed position called "Master Educator Assessment Assessor" for the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

Kim teaches in Howard Suamico School District as a Gifted and Talented Specialist with grades K-4 students. She has taught in Green Bay schools for 18 years with the last 5 years as a Gifted and Talented Resource Teacher. Kim graduated from UW- Green Bay with a BA in elementary education grades 1-6 with a science minor. She graduated from St. Norbert College with an MA in Education.

Kelsy is a Library Media Specialist for grades PreK-5th and was a Library Secretary for grades 9-12 from 2016-2021 for the Green Bay Area Public Schools. She graduated from UW-Green Bay with a BA in English (creative writing) and an MS from UW-Milwaukee in Library and Information Science.

International Speaker, Small Group: Phyllis Hickey, Strategic Outreach Director

An opportunity to ask questions and find out more about the International Society.

Phyllis became a DKG member in 1986 as she was initiated into Theta chapter in Connecticut and then transferred into Alpha chapter in Austin, Texas, in 2009. She served as International Business Director from 2007 to 2020 and then became Strategic Outreach Director in 2020. She is an ex-officio member of the Leadership Development Committee, Non-Dues Revenue Committee, The Holden Fund, and World Fellowship. She has been working with the new DKG International Foundation since 2020.

At the chapter level, Phyllis is currently the chair of the World Fellowship Committee and has served as recording secretary, president, co-chair of program committee, chair of nominations, photographer, historian, and finance chair.

On the state level, Phyllis has served as President, First Vice-President, Leadership Development Chair, Personal Growth and Services Committee, Achievement Award Committee, Chair and charter member of State Outstanding Volunteer Service Awards, Connecticut State Ambassador, Photographer, and Recipient of the Connecticut State Achievement Award in 2001.

Phyllis holds a BA degree in Behavioral Sciences and certification in elementary education grades 1-8 from Annhurst College and an MA in Computer education from Eastern

Connecticut State University. Additionally, she is a graduate of the Norwich Principals' Leadership Academy and completed the ASAE Business of Meetings Certificate Program.

She taught grades 7-8 for 16 years, primarily math including 8 years of technology and served 12 years as a grades PK-8 principal.

Phyllis is interested in genealogy and travel and appeared on *Family Feud* with her brother and sisters.

Literary Competition Reading: Donell Bonetti and Brenda Rank, Zeta

First-place winners of the Mary Jo Nettesheim Memorial Literary Competition will read their books.

Among the Hmong: Lucy Vue, Delta

As a Hmong Culture teacher, Lucy will lead a discussion about the Hmong community, more specifically in Milwaukee, and how educators can support Hmong students and their families.

Lucy is the Hmong Culture teacher for grades K-2 at Hmong American Peace Academy in Milwaukee. She has been an active member of the Hmong community and loves Hmong folk dances and has performed in dance exhibitions and competitions. It was not until Lucy competed and received the title of 2016 1st Runner-Up Miss Hmong Universities in a national Hmong pageant that she realized how to balance between the two worlds; she always felt stuck having to choose. Lucy graduated from Mount Mary University with a BA in Early Childhood and Middle Childhood Education.

Autism from a Mother's Perspective: Shelly VanTassell, Alpha Iota

Shelly will talk about raising autistic children from a mother's perspective. She has written a book on the subject, Victory, which will soon be available.

Shelly is currently pursuing a master's degree in autism, ABA therapy and transitional living from the University of Wisconsin Whitewater. Her book Victory portrays the story of raising autistic children from a mother's perspective and will be available soon for purchase.

Shelly has a BA in music education and has been a music educator for the past 29 years. She lives in Janesville with her husband Jonathan and boys Ethan and Jared. She is excited and grateful to be speaking at this year's 2023 DKG Convention.

European Trip of a Lifetime: Laura Gellott, Professor of History, Emeritus, UW-Parkside

Can a book read in childhood shape your life? Laura will share the story of that one influential book, Jean & Company, Unlimited, and how it led to her lifelong interest in European history and travel. She will also tell the story of the search for the book's author, Helen Perry Curtis, and how that search led to the publication of a biography of Curtis and the story of Helen's real-life trips with her daughters through 1930s Europe.

Laura taught for 30 years at UW Parkside. She earned a BA and an MA in history at Marquette University and at UW-Madison. She is a frequent European traveler, and in retirement has lectured widely to community organizations and adult education programs.

Celebrating Juneteenth Day: Alethea Sumbry-Cetnarowski, Delta

The idea for this presentation came to Alethea as she thought about how to share this holiday with students who live in Milwaukee, the city with one of the longest running Juneteenth celebrations in the U.S.

Alethea is a School Support Teacher at 95th Street School and has had this role for four years. She leads professional development in all core subject areas, is in charge of implementing Tier 3 interventions in reading and math for students, and is the school liaison who coordinates schedules for all of the major learning journeys for the Milwaukee Art

Museum, the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center, and the Skylight Music Theater. Additionally, she is the school Discipline Champion and the Technology Champion. She has been a classroom teacher for the heart of her 25-year teaching career. She taught grades 6, 7, and 8 at Cass Street school from 1997 -2000. Alethea graduated from Mount Mary College, now University, with a BA in elementary and middle school education. She is certified to instruct grades 1-8 in general education and grades 1-9 in Spanish. She has an MA in education from Mount Mary University.

Funding Opportunities Panel: Bobbi Momchilovic, Psi; Ellen Dowd, Beta Alpha; Millie Buege, Beta Alpha; Laura Muchowski, Beta Alpha

Learn about the different funding opportunities available to you and your chapter, including Action Grants, Give Back Grants, and Scholarships. This is your opportunity to get the information you need to apply.