



Mercer-Bucks Newsletter
10 Pettyriddle Road
Hamilton, NJ 08620



Letter from the President

Welcome to a new year at Mercer-Bucks. I am thrilled at the opportunity to be elected as the new President and hope I do not disappoint you. This year's executive board has a fun-filled calendar planned with some new events that we hope that you'll enjoy. In addition, we also hope to include some new service projects throughout the year. Hope to see everyone in **September** for "Kick off the Year with Pizza and Beer"!!!!

Zeta Love,

Jill Aspinwall
President - Mercer Bucks
Alumnae Chapter

New and Noteworthy

There are some changes in "advising" at our two local chapters. As Chrissy moves into her position as Province President 1-B, her position as PCAdv to IG is vacated. With the demands of Theresa's job increasing, NMAdv for IG is also open. So, in response, Mercer-Bucks will host a mini-Advisor Academy within the next month. If you are interested in helping either chapter, please contact Chrissy (for ZL) or RuthAnne (for IG) for more details!



Dues of \$35.00 will be collected at our September meeting. Remember, paying your dues enables us to include you in our Yearbook (which will be available for changes at the two meetings), add you to our Sunshine List, and pair you with a Zeta Mate, along with many other benefits!

Looking Back 2004–2005

September: Our “Kick off the Year with Pizza & Beer” was held at Momma Flora’s (in Ewing) and included our Officer Installation for new officers: Amy Nowalinski, VP/Membership, Lauren Johnson, Secretary, and Kate Stevens & Jenn Gradzki, co-Historian/Reporters. New faces Beth Marotta, Steph McGrory, and Laura Buffett joined old ones for a wonderful attendance to start the new year!

October: Founders’ Day was celebrated at TCNJ with Iota Gamma and Zeta Lambda. Kaitlin Hagan, guided by Ritual Advisor, Kelly Czajka, did an awesome job setting up the room. Refreshments were provided by Mercer-Bucks and after the Ceremony, everyone mingled over the goodies.

November: As usual, a good crowd was in attendance for our Wine & Cheese Party. This year, we had a wine connoisseur impart his knowledge through a tasting of several different wines... it was very informative but we decided that it cut down on our socializing time! We also had a special guest that evening: Sarah came down from the City with her Mom in a driving rain storm (no pun intended).

December: Our annual Holiday Cookie Exchange was held this year at RuthAnne’s house. With a lot of people attending, we were able to spread our goodies out on the pool table in order to make our ‘exam basket assembly’ easier. Our DP, Glenna, was able to join us as was Donna’s mom and 2 girls from IG’s E.C.

January: Our “just-for-fun” event was a trip to a comedy club. Catch a Rising Star was closed for renovations so we went to the Stress Factory in New Brunswick where Steph joined us. That night, we had two young ladies (Jess and Stacey from Theta Delta) join us too! With lots of laughs, a good time was had by all!

February: WHO DONE IT AT THE ALL GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL REUNION?

The latest Murder-Mystery dinner took place at an All Girls High School Reunion, where the very diverse and extreme characters revealed clues about their involvement with their deceased classmate, Helen. Fifteen women attended the event, including newcomers Sue and Stacey. Everyone dressed to the hilt, but only one could take home the best costume award. Our Straw hats go off to RuthAnne Lavis - Jillaroo the farmgirl. Best actors were Laura Buffett (sex goddess) and Liza Gundell (Angel, the biker chick). And, although no one attained the title of Super Sluth this year, we all learned that Helen’s killer was the shy, reserved Liawati (Lindsay Johnson).

March: WHO SAID IT’S NOT EASY BEING GREEN?

This year’s annual Everything Green Event, in celebration of St. Patty’s Day, was held on March 11, 2005, at the lovely home of Liza Gundell. We welcomed new member Shan Ellis Hoffman to the fold that night and she graced our party with a beautiful green meringue pie from her own family bakery. There were many other green dishes and goodies, and Chrissy’s green jello treats were a big hit. We finished the Zeta Day planning and sang Zeta songs in preparation for the big event in April. This event is always a well-attended event and it’s move to a Friday night has made it even more so. The only pre-requisite for this festive party is that you bring something to eat or drink that is “Green”. Nothing hard about that.

April: HEY YA, NEW JERSEY ZETA DAY IS A HIT!!!

On a rainy April 2, 2005, at the Lafayette Marriott in Trenton, New Jersey, Mercer-Bucks hosted “SPA ZTA . . . the sisterhood that makes you feel good!” Collegians and alumnae alike could be seen in the hotel foyer sitting at massage chairs getting a massage, sipping a strawberry smoothie from the smoothie bar, or just getting a quick manicure before the program started at 10 a.m. The program included a ZTA Spirit Competition for Collegians, Awards, Senior gifts, Zeta Spans a Lifetime, a keynote speaker and a white violet pin recipient. For the First Annual Zeta Day Spirit Competition, all six NJ collegiate chapters showed their Zeta Spirit by doing a skit or song medley, tying in the Spa/Wellness Theme. Judges included Province Presidents Liza Gundell and Sandy Minutti, District President Glenna Gundell, NYC Alumnae Lucy Brown, and our Keynote Speaker Elizabeth Shaw. The winner of this First Annual Zeta Day Spirit Competition, by unanimous vote, was the Iota Gamma Chapter from The College of New Jersey. Another highlight of the day was Elizabeth Shaw, Senior Health Editor of *Self Magazine*, who spoke about tips for reducing stress and taking time for ourselves. Thereafter, a few members of Mercer-Bucks (who have a healthy sense of humor about themselves) were on stage to sing and dance to a Zeta version of “Hey Ya”, by the band Outkast.

Finally, at the end of the day, many important announcements were made involving changes in National Officers. After many years of service, Glenna Gundell will be stepping down as our District President. Stepping into her shoes will be Janet Bronocco. We thank Glenna for all of her support these past years and we welcome Janet to her new position. Also stepping down was Sandy Miniutti, Province President I-Beta, who has been extremely supportive of the local college chapters, as well as Mercer-Bucks. Thank you Sandy for all you’ve done for this Province. Following in her footsteps will be Mercer-Bucks’ own Chrissy D’Elia. But she promises to still come to all of the Mercer-Bucks events, because they are really fun. And, she looks forward to the fall wine and cheese party after the start of the new semester.

May: Cinco di Maio was celebrated at Tortuga’s in Trenton. While everyone was sipping their margaritas, we talked about slating of officers and then finished our business by presenting Chrissy with a framed “Spa” copy of her Zeta Lady award from Zeta Day... Congratulations, Chrissy, on your awards AND being named Province President I-B!!! May was a busy month due to 2 other events: Senior Initiations were held at Rider for both chapters and while we also learned at Zeta Day that Glenna would be stepping down from her position as District President, four of us were able to attend her retirement dinner. Chrissy, Donna, RuthAnne, and Nina had a wonderful evening in Edison with other Zetas from the area. Mercer-Bucks will be making a contribution to an endowed scholarship in her honor: THANK YOU, Glenna, for all your hard work and support for Mercer-Bucks... we’ll miss you but you know you’re always welcome!!!

June: Our Appetizer/Dessert was at Donna’s and again, this event had a huge showing... we went over the surveys for next year and voted on the Slate of ‘05-’06 Officers. With plenty to eat, we even took a few minutes to watch the video from Zeta Day and late in the evening, we hopped in the hot tub to relax! Thanks, Donna, for your hospitality!!!



Mercer-Bucks meets it's 2004-05 Goals

"Striving ever to make our lives a symphony of high ideals"

Ladies, as you know, each year we set goals to strive for as an alumnae chapter of ZTA. In Fall of 2004, the goals set by EC for the 2004-05 year were: (1) to plan a successful Zeta Day; (2) to raise money for a local breast cancer organization and a recognition scholarship for collegians; (3) to encourage more members to sign up for committees; (4) to participate in and support alumnae-collegiate events; (5) and to launch our Mercer-Bucks website. Thanks to energetic members, both seasoned and new, I am happy to report we have met all these lofty goals.

On April 2, 2005, we hosted "SPA ZTA . . . the Sisterhood that makes you feel good!" Zeta Day, at the Lafayette Marriott in Trenton, New Jersey. Just under 300 Zetas attended the event, which included a free smoothie bar and spa treatments, a Collegian Spirit Competition, a keynote speaker from SELF Magazine, and a Mercer-Bucks song and dance to "Hey Ya". Through raffle basket sales, vendor sales, and donations taken that day, we raised over \$2,000 for the ZTA Foundation. All of the feedback from Collegians and Alumnae has been really positive. Thanks to all who took part in planning and executing an amazing Zeta Day, a fun time was had by all!

Last year, we donated \$500 to the local Breast Cancer Resource Center in Princeton, NJ, and we raised \$1,000 for a Mercer-Bucks, NJ Recognition Scholarship to be given to local collegian, Karen Chan, IF. The scholarship will be awarded this August.

We also have had more involvement in committees over the past year. Kelly Czjaka is our FRED chair. Theresa Farmer chairs the Fund-raising committee. Beth Marotta has been doing Publicity for the group, and Chrissy D'Elia will be continuing to help her on that front as PR Chair. Julie Haenisch has gone above and beyond in Publications for Zeta Day and has taken over our Yearbook and Newsletter. Lauren Seber has agreed to be our new Archives Chairperson. And, Kat Swift is the webmaster for Mercer-Bucks.

Our chapter continues to be involved with the local collegians and they are grateful for our support. Last December, some EC members from Iota Gamma attended our holiday cookie exchange, where we assembled exam baskets for the collegians in Iota Gamma and Zeta Lambda. In March of 2005, we volunteered at the Lawrenceville Pre-school Magic Show with Zeta Lambda to paint faces, run games and hand out snacks. We also held Senior Initiations at the ZTA house at Rider University, for seniors in Iota Gamma and Zeta Lambda, in April of 2005. Our chapter also provides a full advisory board for Iota Gamma, two advisors for Kappa Nu, a Financial Advisor for Zeta Lambda and the State's two Province Presidents.

Finally, our own Kat Swift launched a beautiful website this year. The site is located at www.MercerBucksZTA.org and will be updated with new newsletters, calendar of events, and facts about our chapter each month. Way to go Kat!



www.MercerBucksZTA.org

Welcome New '05 -'06 Officers



Jill Aspinwall, President
Amy Nowalinski, VP/Membership
RuthAnne Lavis, VP/Programming
Lauren Johnson, Secretary
Laura Buffett, Treasurer
Kate Stevens & Jenn Gradzki,
co-Historian/Reporters

Membership Update

We were thrilled to have an 18% increase in membership this year, with an increase from 23 to 27 dues-paying members!!! Our newest members included: Laura Buffett (IG), Laura Hillenius (IG), Lindsay Johnson (IG), Steph McGrory (IG), Jess Canepari & Stacey Mueller (Theta Delta - Salisbury Univ., MD.), Shan Hoffmann (Delta Iota - Clarion Univ., PA.)

Our goal for this year is 31 members: retention along with recruitment will hopefully bring the results we're hoping for and as a complement, Mercer-Bucks' own ZetaMate Program will be revived... this past year was a little hectic with our focus on Zeta Day, but now it's time to take care of 'us'!

Calendar 2005-2006

We met for Officer Training and Calendar Planning on July 18th; it's time to mark your calendars:

Kick of the Year with Pizza & Beer: Tues., Sept. 13 at Momma Flora's

Race-for-the-Cure: Sun., Oct. 16 at BMS

Founders Day: Mon., Oct. 17 at TCNJ ~ 8:00 p.m.

Courage Night: TBA

Wine & Cheese Recruitment Party: Fri., Nov. 18 at Chrissy's "Community Room"

Holiday Cookie Exchange: Wed., Dec. 7 at location T.B.D.

"J-F-F" Slumber Party: Fri., Jan. 27 at Jill's

Murder/Mystery: Thurs., Feb. 9 at location T.B.D.

Everything Green: Fri., Mar. 10 at Liza's

Appetizer/Dessert A/C Reception: Thurs., Apr. 6 at Liza's "Community Room"

ZETA DAY: Saturday, April 8th

Cinco di Maio: Fri., May 5 at Chevy's ~ 5:30

Mix & Match Bash: Tue., June 6 at RuthAnne's

all events begin at 6:30 unless otherwise noted