

In this issue - Meet Marcia Wallace ΔN, actor and comedian

The LAMP

of Delta Zeta

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The New Generation of College Women

The LAMP of Delta Zeta

About the Cover:

Since Delta Zeta's founding in 1902, collegiate women, and Greek women in particular, have faced many challenges. Learn more about what challenges today's collegians have on campuses around the country, and what these challenges mean to the future of Greek organizations.



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The New Generation of College Women

The Millennials are the newest generation on today's college campus. How can sororities effectively respond to today's college women?

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Standards of Excellence

Delta Zeta's Standards of Excellence give today's college chapters the opportunity to excel, and gives collegians opportunities to grow, lead, and succeed.



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Alumnae Profiles

Meet actor and comedian Marcia Wallace ΔN '61, entrepreneur Emily Heintz ΖΠ '96, disabilities advocate Jane MacFarlane Welker ΖN '90, and singer-songwriter Stacy Donahue ΒΤ '97.



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Participate in Quality Recruitment

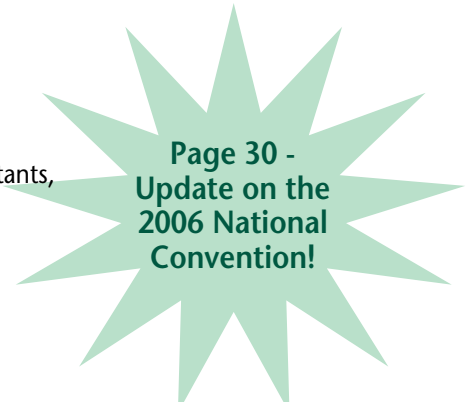
You can recommend a potential new member who possesses the strong values that Delta Zeta expects from its members.

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A Tribute to Our Chapter Consultants

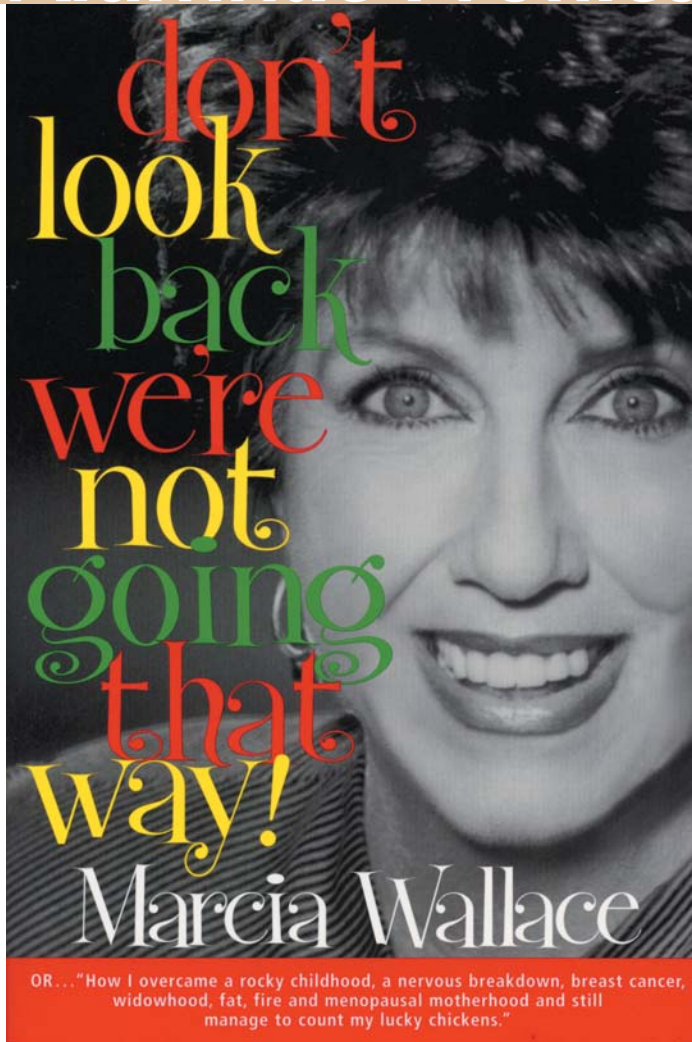
As the school year ends, we thank our Chapter Consultants, who have worked tirelessly and enthusiastically with Delta Zeta's college chapters during 2004-2005.

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Update on the
2006 National
Convention!

Alumnae Profiles



"Don't Look Back, We're Not Going That Way"

Marcia Wallace ΔN '61 discusses her life, fame, family, tragedy, and why she can "still manage to count my lucky chickens."

By Nancy Brewer A

Marcia Wallace ΔN '61 is truly an actor for all generations. In 1972, she played the quick-witted receptionist on the Emmy-nominated *The Bob Newhart Show*. In the 1980s, she made guest appearances on TV shows such as *Taxi*, *Magnum P.I.*, *Alf*, and later, as Murphy Brown's efficient secretary in the television series of that same name. A new generation of television viewers came to know her in the 1990s as Edna Krabappel on *The Simpsons*, Bart Simpson's middle-aged, divorced fourth-grade teacher who never gives Bart a grade above a 'D', a part for which Marcia won an Emmy. "It's job security, because Bart has been in the fourth grade for 16 years!" she laughs.

On March 16th, Marcia joined the cast of *The Bob Newhart Show* for the 2005 TV Land Awards. That night, the show was honored with the Icon Award, and television viewers both young and old were treated to a *Bob Newhart* reunion.

Behind the colorful characters she has created on the TV screen, Marcia is also a mother, an advocate for breast cancer awareness, and now an author with the release of her autobiography, *Don't Look Back, We're Not Going That Way!*, which is the perfect motto for her life journey to fame, self-discovery, love, and heartbreak.

After a "rocky" childhood in Creston, Iowa (Marcia's father was an alcoholic, but someone she later reconciled with and the person she credits with giving her the wacky sense of humor everyone has come to know), Marcia ventured to Parsons College in Fairfield, Iowa, a small school with an excellent drama program. Her high school journalism teacher guided her to this major after she told Marcia that she had "no nose for news."

While at college, Marcia became a member of the Delta Nu Chapter of Delta Zeta Sorority, and later served as Chapter President. "I went through rush [recruitment] and was turned down by everybody. Then I was rooming with a lot of sorority girls in the dorms, and over a period of time everybody got to know me. Then everybody wanted me. One friend tells the story of how somebody went through rush and my friend said, 'We need to be careful—she might turn out to be another Marcia Wallace!'"

"I am extremely close with my sorority advisor, Charlotte Lamb I '61, and she and her family ended up being my surrogate family," Marcia continues. "I met her when I was 19—in fact, I talked to her just the other day. She's warm and loving and hilarious and just made everybody feel great [in college]. And all my sorority sisters from school remember her."

Marcia values her sorority experience. "I learned about that kind of deep friendship that I didn't want to do without once I got out into the world. I didn't want to have just superficial friends because I had developed so many strong friendships. I loved college and my sorority experience, and I value and treasure the friends that I made there. My life is better for it—no question about it."

Through Parson's excellent drama program, Marcia learned from some of the best, then, "I took off for New York City the day I graduated from college. I weighed 230 pounds and I had \$150 in the bank. When people ask me, 'How do you break into show business?', I say, 'Well, first of all, your ready cash should at least equal your weight,'" she laughs.

After studying with actor and sought-after acting coach Bill Hickey, Marcia was working with his improv group at a small club in New York. "So there I am, and we're working for like a dollar and a half and a Chicklet®, and one night it's raining and one of the drama critics for the *New York Times* literally came in out of the rain and sat down to watch us—not that we were that good, but we had potential and he mentioned me. Somebody from *The Merv Griffin Show* read that article and came down and saw us and then put me on *The Merv Griffin Show* which eventually led to *The Bob Newhart Show*."

Marcia's brief appearance on *The Merv Griffin Show* was enough to convince CBS founder Bill Paley that he had found Carol Kester, the funny, loyal receptionist for Bob Newhart's Dr. Bob Hartley, a psychologist practicing in Chicago. She got the job without an audition.



Above left: "I got married at the Buddhist temple in Cucamonga, California. It was an hour from Los Angeles and the reception was an hour away in Long Beach. Somebody said, 'I hope the marriage lasts longer than the drive.' Bob Newhart said, 'I love a traditional Cucamonga/Long Beach wedding.'" **Second from left:** "I'm very lucky to have been paid for what I love to do. I want more than anything for my son, Mikey, to find his passion—what he feels strongly about and go for it. A lot of people never do that, and that is too bad." **Second from right:** Marcia (center) with the cast of *The Bob Newhart Show*. Clockwise: Suzanne Pleshette, Bob Newhart, Bill Daily, and Peter Bonerz. "It was fabulous," Marcia says. "That was a wonderful time. That whole Saturday night line up—All in the Family, M*A*S*H*, The Mary Tyler Moore Show, Bob Newhart, and Carol Burnett—we'll never see the likes of that again. People had one TV and there were three channels, so people watched as a family. I still get all generations who remember the show with a great deal of affection and fondness because those shows were so darn good." **Above right:** Today Marcia is the voice of Edna Krabappel on *The Simpsons*.

Marcia stays in touch with the cast today, including Bob Newhart. "He's a very unusual comic. I always say he's like the Fred Astaire of comedy because he makes it look so easy. I had a dog named Maggie who was so old when I got her, all she did was sleep and yawn. So whenever there was a joke that Bob didn't particularly like, he'd get down and tell the joke to Maggie, and say, 'See? Maggie doesn't think it's funny.' He is an absolutely nice person."

The highly successful comedy ran from 1972 to 1978, and at the height of its success, Marcia found herself checking into a mental hospital (which she affectionately refers to as "the Bin") after suffering a nervous breakdown. "I ended up at a time, when I should have been the happiest, feeling so isolated and I kind of went to pieces. Of course now, if you have a nervous breakdown, you'll be on *The View* on Tuesday. In those days, you didn't talk about that."

But the experience taught Marcia an important lesson. "When I knew the show was a success, I found out that you can't look outside yourself for real happiness," she says.

With the support of her *Newhart* family and her friends, Marcia started the road to recovery. This leg of her journey took her through therapy and a spiritual journey which led her to the discovery of Buddhism, her adopted faith. "Basically," she explains, "it's about tapping into the best part of yourself and looking for enlightenment in your own self. Buddhism really helps you tap into that life force."

In her early forties, Marcia had a chance meeting with hotel owner Dennis Hawley in Long Beach, California. After years of dating the wrong men, her love affair with Dennis was magical. "He said, 'I'm crazy about you, but I've been married and I didn't like it and I don't want to get married,'" Marcia remembers. "I thought to myself, 'For once in your life, shut up. He's here. He's with you. Appreciate all the wonderful things he will do and don't concentrate on what he won't.' So six months later he said, 'I can't go one more minute without being married.' Then I almost broke his neck jumping on him!"

On the eve of her wedding, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. "I've been a breast cancer survivor for 19 years this October," Marcia says. "I caught it early, I never got sick, and it never came back. That's about a 10-minute movie of the week. Then one day somebody called and said, 'Would you come and share your story at the luncheon?' and eventually, after about 10 years, I had a speech and people were asking me if I could travel around the country. I talked about breast cancer survival as a volunteer for years."

A year after their wedding, Marcia and Dennis adopted Mikey, their son. "Five years later, this huge wrecking ball came crashing into my heart and I thought, 'I'll never survive this.'" Marcia had learned that her husband had cancer. "Denny died at 47 of pancreatic cancer—it was just so horrible. Two weeks before he died, he said, 'This is hard, and I hate it, but I'm so glad we used our good china,' because we did. We traveled, we hugged, and we used our good china, and most of it is broken, but so what? And that was a metaphor for our life together—there were no regrets."

Her experience with breast cancer also saved her financially after her husband's death. "When Denny died, I had medical bills and owed the IRS the penalty for dissolving my retirement fund early. My house was in foreclosure, and then somebody said, 'We'll pay you to go on the road and talk about breast cancer,' and I said, 'I don't think I'm good enough,' but I got over that! After months and months on the road, I paid back all the money I borrowed and paid back all of our debts, which was tens of thousands of dollars. It's given me great pleasure, especially to pay back people who are struggling now."

Today she is busy raising her teenage son, Mike. "I'm losing hormones and he's getting them!" she laughs ruefully. "I do *The Simpsons*, I do the speaking engagements, I raise my boy, and I'm promoting the book right now. I want to take the book to talk shows—my dream is *Oprah*—it could happen! The whole world wants to be on *Oprah*, but why not me? That's why I'm still here, I think, because I presume, 'Why not?' Now many, many times it turns out not to be me, but that's okay, too. I'll keep going."

Visit Marcia's website at www.marciawallace.com. The *Bob Newhart Show* (first season) is now available on DVD.

Meet Marcia Wallace at the Delta Nu Reunion!

Alumnae of the Delta Nu Chapter (Parsons College, Fairfield, Iowa) are holding a reunion the weekend of June 3, 2005. Meet alumna Marcia Wallace '61, actor and comedian, for a book signing and memories!

Please contact Kaye Sobaski Richardson '59 at stevenr114@comcast.net or 520/690-1361 for further information.