



# Graduate Keynote

A publication of Alpha Epsilon Lambda, the honor society of graduate and professional school students.

Fall, 2005

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## AEL 2005 National Member



**Jennifer Marie Butler, Communication Studies graduate student was awarded AEL National Membership on April 22, 2005.**

AEL Executive Director, Dr. John Capece and the Edinboro University Dean, Dr. Mary M. Bevevino, selected Jennifer Butler to receive the prestigious National Member status of Alpha Epsilon Lambda. The University and AEL were unanimous in their decision that Jennifer was most deserving of recognition for her service in both on-campus and off-campus activities.

Butler, a member of the AEL [Nu Chapter](#) at Edinboro University, demonstrated unique professional dedication by simultaneously serving



Photo info: Edinboro University President Frank G. Pogue recognizes Jennifer Butler, Communication Studies graduate student, with National Member status from Alpha Epsilon Lambda. She is the first from Edinboro University to receive this distinction.

as president of the AEL chapter, president of the graduate student council, editor of the town newspaper, and National delegate to the Model United Nations, all while maintaining an impressive 4.00 GPA.

Jennifer is the first graduate student from Edinboro University to receive this distinction. The award was presented on April 22 during the annual Celebration of Excellence ceremony at Edinboro University.

The Edinboro University President Frank G. Pogue presented Butler the certificate wishing her continued success in her future endeavors.

The lengthy applause and admiration directed toward Jennifer demonstrated the clear admiration of her peers for Jennifer's unique achievements.

We congratulate Jennifer and wish her all the best in both her professional and personal pursuits.

# AEL 2005 National Honorary Member

**Photo Info: Nancy (second from the right) presenting \$500 to the Ghana Society for the Blind Executive Director James Sambian (second from the left), and Deputy Director Peter Obeng-Asamoia**



## **Nancy W. Keteku, National Honorary Member for 2005.**

Nancy W. Keteku, U.S. State Department Regional Educational Advising Coordinator for Africa has been recognized as the AEL National Honorary Member for 2005.

Keteku is responsible for the placement and supervision of West African exchange students at universities throughout the USA. Keteku screens and recommends students who she believes will become ideal student-ambassadors of Africa in America. In addition to her responsibilities at the U.S Embassy in Accra, Keteku coordinates the educational advising programs of sub-Saharan Africa, 46 countries in all. Keteku spends most of her time traveling to African countries where she trains educational advisors and promotes U.S. study programs.

AEL Executive Director Dr. John C. Capece cited Keteku's unique dedication to her global educational mission as the basis for being awarded this special AEL status recognizing exceptional academic leadership and service. By fostering graduate and undergraduate educational cooperation between the U.S.A. and Africa, Keteku plays an important role in enhancing the academic, economic, and cultural ties between the respective peoples.

Representing the society, AEL intern Isaac Adusei returned to Ghana on July 4 to present Keteku with a framed certificate and a \$500 check, payable to Keteku's preferred charity -- The Ghana Society for the Blind (GSB). "I am greatly honored by the AEL award, which took me completely by surprise," Keteku said.

Describing the donation check presentation to GSB on August 8, Keteku noted in her appreciation letter to AEL, "There were happy smiles all around and I felt like Lady Bountiful. 'Your compassion for worthy causes and investment in people are an inspiration to me.'"

GSB Executive Director James Sambian and Deputy Director Peter Obeng-Asamoan were delighted with this surprise contribution, "The GSB identified four blind children with very pressing needs who would derive maximum benefit from this support. The Ghana Society for the Blind is indeed most grateful for this kind and generous donation and would like to assure you that it will go a long way in the development of these children," said Sambian. The donation provides tuition and supplies for four children to attend GSB for a semester.

It was through her job in educational advising that Keteku became familiar with the Ghana Society for the Blind, 15 years ago. "As I got to know scholars in the blind community in Ghana, I came to respect them for their dedication to education, along with personal qualities that I admire: tenacity, resourcefulness, loyalty to friends, and social skills. Some of the members of GSB ended up studying in the States, winning scholarships and going on to great achievements. Others have stayed home, making phenomenal contributions through their dedication and courage." said Keteku.

In her letter Keteku tells AEL, "Usually I've concentrated on students with disabilities who have made it to university, but I won't be able to get these younger students out of my head. I'm so touched by these children's stories that I think I'll volunteer to see them the rest of the way through school."

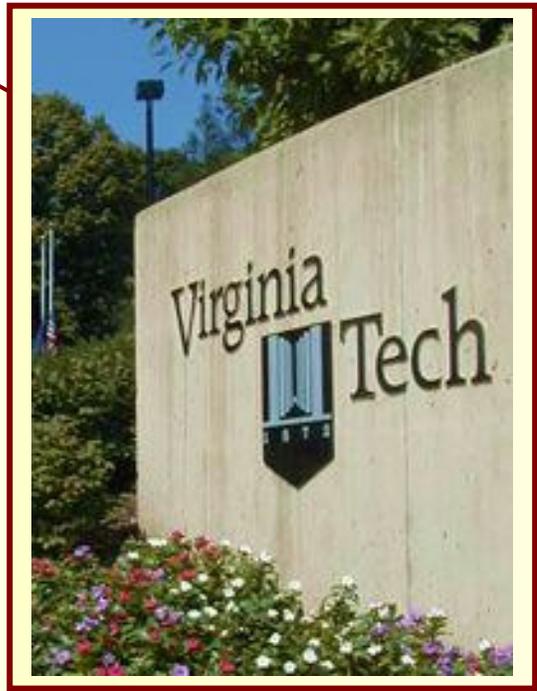
Keteku's sincere dedication to helping and promoting students at all levels provides strength, courage and hope to all. Keteku can be proud of her contributions and professional leadership to educate the young people of sub-Saharan Africa. We congratulate Nancy and wish her great achievements in both her personal and professional activities.

Editor's Note: AEL chapters seeking an international community service project are invited to help AEL continue its support for The Ghana Society for the Blind.

# Featured Chapter—Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

**The Alpha Xi Chapter was established at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University on March 22, 2005.**

From a meager beginning in October of 1872, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University has evolved into a comprehensive university of national and international prominence with 25,600 students and is now ranked as one of the top 50 research institutions in the nation. It is an institution that firmly embraces a history of putting knowledge to work.



Virginia  
Tech



Alpha Xi Chapter founding president, Yvette Quintela, and the founding advisor Karen P. DePauw completed the chapter establishment procedures in the Fall of 2004 and on March 22, 2005 the Alpha Xi Chapter was officially installed at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

The purpose of this chapter is to recognize students of high academic achievement who also dedicate their time by volunteering in the community and serving in leadership roles on campus.

Alpha Xi Chapter inductees: Yvette Quintela, Myrna C. Callison, Melih Madanoglu, Adria M. Woods, Terrell L. Strayhorn, Antra W. Higgins, Kayenda T. Johnson, Chanel T. Thomas and Nicole E. James were presented charter member certificates during the chapter installation.

Each member was given an individual tribute describing their unique, personal contribution to the campus community.

We congratulate Yvette and VPISU's Alpha Xi Chapter for all their great work and wish them the best for 2005-2006.

## Coming Soon

Currently a new AEL chapter is being established at Clark University in Worcester, MA.

The chapter will be recognized as the Alpha Omicron Chapter of Alpha Epsilon Lambda, the 38<sup>th</sup> chapter of the AEL society.

## Five Tips on How to Recruit New Members

1. Advertise your chapter activities: Invite non-members to chapter events, write articles about your chapter & AEL in community and school newspapers and send out press releases on chapter activities.
2. Sponsor community events by donating your time & money.
3. Sponsor popular existing school programs.
4. Involve faculty members in AEL activities.
5. Send congratulatory letters to the students who demonstrate high academic and leadership accomplishments.

## Establishing a New AEL Chapter

*Interested in starting a new AEL chapter at your University?*

### **Requirements**

Requirements for a new chapter include selecting a qualified founding president, a minimum of five founding members, and a faculty advisor.

### **Qualification**

To qualify for AEL membership, an individual must be in the academic top 35% of graduate students on campus and have demonstrated leadership through involvement in on-campus and off-campus activities while in graduate school.

### **Starting a Chapter**

To pilot a new AEL chapter as its founding president a student must meet the basic membership criteria and also demonstrate an exceptional commitment towards the university community and complete the chapter establishment procedures. AEL will then recognize the student as the founding president on the chapter charter.

**Chapter Establishment Procedures:** To make your application process easier, AEL has created a web page containing documents and all the tools you need. The AEL web site at <http://www.gradschool.org/> provides forms and templates to guide you in establishing a new AEL chapter at your university.

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