

## Swimming through Reading!

By Emily Traficante, Chapter President



The Eta Chapter's greatest accomplishment during the 2009–10 year would be our Literacy Alive! event held on April 9 at Murdock Elementary School. Kappa Delta Pi members created a “swimming through reading” environment in Murdock's library for the second graders and their teachers. Decorations included beach balls and stuffed-animal dolphins.

When the students entered the room, they were given a lei and invited to sit at the different stations set up. Two members were at each station to

complete the activity with the students. Stations included Making Origami Whales, Reading about Aquatic Animals, Snacks, Drawing and Coloring, and How Blubber Works.

The students' favorite station by far was How Blubber Works. At this station were buckets filled with ice water into which the students plunged their hands (sporting latex gloves) after they described blubber. Their reactions, not surprisingly, were to the effect of, "It's cold!" After we explained that petroleum jelly would act just like blubber, we put petroleum jelly over the glove and the students again plunged their hands into the ice water. The jelly simulated how blubber acts as an insulating layer to keep arctic animals warm.

Snacks also were also a big hit! We provided cups of gold fish and blue Hawaiian Punch. The students enjoyed their snack while a member read them a story. Several students were also very proud of their origami whales.

Overall, the students had a great experience. Books ordered that day were brought at a later date for the students to keep.