

The Delta Kappa
Gamma Society
International

Epsilon Kappa
Chapter #130

Alpha State
Austin, TX
Area 7

The Reporter

International Mission: Delta Kappa Gamma promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education

International Theme: 85 Years and Beyond: Advancing Key Women Educators for Life

State Theme: Expand the Vision: Educate—Inspire—Encourage

Chapter Theme: Expanding Our World – Exploring the Possibilities

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President's Message

Let's Celebrate *Ourselves*

Our chapter has lost some very dear members since this past Christmas: Dr. Natalie Barraga (December 29), Jolene Crozier (February 20), and Marie Scheel (February 21). Fortunately, we had just celebrated Natalie's 99th birthday and Marie's 100th birthday at our chapter meeting this past October. We are blessed to have known these fabulous women and had them as members of our chapter. Our lives are richer and have more meaning as a result of knowing them. Just as favorite teachers live in the hearts and minds of their students, these ladies will continue to live in our hearts and minds as long as we live.

This great loss causes me to pause and reflect on the many roles we play as *women* and to celebrate those roles. So I say let's celebrate Natalie, Jolene, and Marie as *women*. *Let's celebrate ourselves as women.*

Women are strong, formidable forces; are capable of bearing unbearable loads; persevere, often in the face of adversity; and exhibit great skill and talent as they pursue their lofty but quite attainable goals, all while demonstrating incomparable compassion and empathy towards others. Each of the relationships we share with others as women is unique in its purpose and has its own unique rewards.

Let's celebrate ourselves as sisters (siblings). Sometimes our sisters are our best friend, sometimes our foe. But there is no other bond like the one you have with your sister if you are lucky enough to have one. And if you don't have one, you may have a very dear friend that you love like a sister.

Let's celebrate ourselves as daughters. As daughters, we love and honor our parents. We learn from our parents and hope to have the wisdom and maturity they have as we reach the winter of our lives as they did. Many of us are in the phase of life in which we are caring for our aging parents or in which we have already lost our parents. But our strength as daughters carries them through.

Let's celebrate ourselves as wives. We have always heard that behind every successful man, there is a strong woman. As a wife, we are friends, lovers, and partners in life. We forgive and we are forgiven. We share and we complement. We are a team of two facing the world.

Let's celebrate ourselves as mothers. There can be no more special bond than the one between a mother and her child. Mothers are supreme multi-taskers who set a spectacular example every day as they schedule, organize, maintain, and upgrade the entire family and home. They are the guardians of their children.

Let's celebrate ourselves as educators. As educators, we devote our professional lives to fostering the learning of others, whether they be young children, adolescents, or adults. We have a passion for helping others become as successful as they can be, and we know that a good educator is essential to learning.

Let's celebrate ourselves as friends. We have childhood friends, long-time friends, and new friends. Each friend serves a different purpose in our lives and brings different gifts to our lives. Even if we have no others in our lives, having at least one friend is essential to our existence as a human being.

President's Message Continued

Let's celebrate ourselves as leaders. We are all born leaders, or we would not have chosen education as a profession. As mothers, we are leaders; as women, we are leaders.

Let's celebrate ourselves as givers. As women, as mothers, as sisters (siblings), as wives, as daughters, as educators, as friends, as leaders, we are all givers.

Let's celebrate ourselves as sisters in DKG. We became a member of DKG for a reason – to share in the learning, camaraderie, friendship, caring, growing, and giving. We have a unique relationship with each of our DKG sisters. Cherish those relationships and hold them close to your heart.

Here's to all of you, my sisters, my friends.

Earin

Membership Review

This is the year for all five of the Austin area chapters to get together and celebrate our Founders. Epsilon Kappa has the honor of sharing information about these educators who wanted to make a difference in the lives of their contemporaries and future generations of educators. As you learn about them, remember to tell others about the courageous women who had a vision of excellence in education and supported personal and professional growth.

Dr. Annie Webb Blanton – began as a teacher in rural schools; rose to become State Superintendent; later a college professor of rural education

Mamie Sue Bastian – became an elementary school principal in Houston; influential in urging legislators to the needs of women teachers

Ruby Cole – an elementary school principal in San Antonio; stood up for issues important to women educators

Mabel Grizzard – also an elementary school principal and a rural supervisor; mentor to new members of our Society

Dr. Anna Hiss – Director of Physical Training for Women at the University of Texas; a woman of faith

Ray King – high school history teacher in Fort Worth; had a vision for her students as well as the Society

Sue King – head of the junior high history department in Fort Worth; possessed high ideals of scholarship and service

Dr. Helen Koch – professor of psychology at the University of Texas; pioneered studies in childcare

Ruby Terrill Lomax – Dean of Women and associate professor of classical languages at the University of Texas; guided new members of the Society

Dr. Cora M. Martin – associate professor of elementary education at the University of Texas; a musician and author of children's readers; *helped organize Epsilon Kappa*

Lalla M. Odum – head of the math department of Allan Junior High in Austin; *helped organize Epsilon Kappa*

Lela Lee Williams – elementary school principal in Dallas; led a march of Dallas teachers for better pay

Attend the May 2 Founders' Day luncheon at Green Pastures and see a fresh look at the inspiring leaders.

Bernadine Eaton



Epsilon Kappa Outstanding First-Year Teacher

Mindy Smith, a third grade teacher at Lakeway Elementary School, Lake Travis Independent School District, was selected as this year's Epsilon Kappa *Outstanding First-Year Teacher*. Member Julie Jistel nominated Mindy, and the Educational Excellence Committee selected her to receive the award.

Mindy was selected for the award because of her demonstrated passion for the profession of education and for children. She started work in the business field, stayed home for years to raise her children, and when she decided to return to the work force, chose education because she holds the task of educating children in high esteem. She has children in her classroom who speak English as a second language, are from a different school and came in grade levels behind, battle going home to an unsupportive family system, and exhibit difficult behavior on a daily basis, just to name a few challenges. From day one, Mindy jumped in to her new role ready to meet these challenges and has continued to find ways to support her students academically and emotionally. She continues to be committed to the "ins and outs" of the curriculum, discovering the individual academic needs of her students, and discovering new ways to deliver content, all while engaging and exciting her students.

Mindy's principal, Sam Hicks, paid her the highest compliment in stating that she is dedicated to meeting the needs of all students she serves, and she is making a significant impact on the lives of each student she serves.

Mindy has received her notification letter and will receive her award at the April 11 chapter meeting. If you are unable to join us in congratulating her at the April 11 meeting, you are welcome to email her at smithmi@ltisdschools.org after April 11. I'm sure she would be honored to hear from some of the chapter members.

Mindy is also invited to the May 2 Founders' Day Luncheon at Green Pastures as our special guest.

Earin Martin

Spotlight on Personal Growth

I Am Woman

I am Invincible. I am Ardent. I am Magnanimous. I am Well-Informed. I am Organic. I am Mysterious. I am Awe-Inspiring. I am Necessary. I Am Woman.

"They talk about a woman's sphere as though it had a limit;
There's not a place in Earth or Heaven,
There's not a task to mankind given,
There's not a blessing or a woe,
There's not a whispered yes or no,
There's not a life, or death, or birth,
That has a feather's weight or worth—
Without a woman in it."

Celebrate the women who have inspired you – the historical ones, the artisans, the creatives, the inventors, the scholars, the revolutionaries, the writers, the speech-makers, the educators, the modern ones. Were they famous to the world? To your community? To your family?

C. E. Bowman, "The Sphere of Woman" in Joseph M. Chapple,
Heart Throbs in Prose and Verse (1905), p. 343
Poem From <http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Women>
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Glenda Love Bell

Why Not Apply for a Richards Leadership Grant?

If you plan to attend the TSO Convention in San Antonio in June or the Southwest Regional Conference in Wichita in July, you may be eligible to receive a **Richards Leadership Grant** to help with your expenses. **EPSILON KAPPA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION** awards grants to chapter members who attend DKG leadership events.

Check the **Foundations** section of our Epsilon Kappa Chapter website for guidelines and interactive application form, or email ekedfund@aol.com for more information. **Applications are due no later than April 15.**

Shopping Spree Spring Raffle

The Epsilon Kappa Spring Raffle will be held at our April 11, 2015, meeting at the home of Forrest Hancock. The "Shopping Spree" raffle will be for a "tree" holding 15 \$10.00 gift cards (for a total of \$150.00) from various stores in the Austin area.

Raffle tickets will be for sale at the April 11 meeting and the drawing will take place at the end of the meeting. You do NOT need to be present to win, so if you have already bought raffle tickets or will not be able to make the April 11 meeting, as long as you wrote your name on the back of the tickets and they are in the ticket jar, you are eligible to win. Tickets are \$1 per ticket, or 6 tickets for \$5.00.

Proceeds from the raffle will benefit one or more of the international, TSO, or chapter initiatives. Proceeds will not be used for chapter operating expenses.



You Can Count on Us!

Lunch Bunch is there for YOU, whenever you can come, but always on the second Tuesday of the month! Mark it on your calendar and bring a friend to our next gathering up north: Tuesday, April 14, at 11:30, at Central Market Café at 4001 No. Lamar. We'll sit upstairs, or outside if it's warm enough.

Exciting News

Our Epsilon Kappa chapter has been awarded a \$4,000 grant by the DKG Educational Foundation to fund STEM classroom library sets for our mentees in the SEE program. This will provide dual-language class sets of books worth \$250 for 16 early-career educators in the Austin area.



News Eye on the Web...And Beyond

As always, the end of the school year brings so many choices of how to spend the summer months. Take time to look at the international, state and chapter websites to find events that you may be able to schedule.

When you log onto dkg.org the very top banner will highlight a link to the Southwest Regional Conference in Wichita, Kansas, July 22- 25. Hotel registration and the schedule at a glance are posted. The DKG News has been sent to members with a paper version of the registration form. Later there will be an electronic link on that website. Regional conferences are very relaxing. Business means thought-provoking speakers. Of course workshops are valuable for the active and retired educator. Another great value of attending is visiting and learning about the host city. Also on the international site at the top banner is a survey for non-dues revenue. This might provide some very useful suggestions for the future of the Society. A new publication slated for a November mailing to members is the *Collegial Exchange*. This should be an interesting addition to our scholarly *Bulletin*. Move down the page and click on the Get Connected portion. This news brief shares the results of the November/December survey. There are suggestions for membership and mentoring new teachers. For those in the classroom, there are ideas of how to integrate technology if students have full access or limited use of devices. A brief description of WOG tells that it is the group that is responsible for the DKG website.

Our state website (<http://www.dkgtxas.org>) is very active and should be visited regularly to keep up with all that goes on within the organization. As of mid March, there is a link to the spring Lone Star News and the new ASTEF website (<http://www.astef.org>). The state convention site is easily accessed from the list of upcoming events.

When members cannot get to chapter meetings, our Epsilon Kappa website is updated very rapidly to include photos from those events. We already have under the photos tab of the More button, pictures from February's luncheon and guest speaker, Representative Larry Gonzales. March's meeting photos also are featured. On the home page are easy links to the TSO convention site. The right side tells of program news and other highlights. A very important link is to our new S.E.E. project flyer. These can be printed out and given to those businesses or individuals who might like a tax-exempt contribution to a program that helps early career teachers.

Besides all our Society connections, there are daily sources of professional interest. One that taps into the very heart of where legislation that affects all of the country gets started is thehill.com. Recently one of its blogs noted that President Obama is calling for expanding education for girls worldwide. Another post on March 6 had a long discussion of the need for programs to educate the families of minorities about STEM education. Educators should show how STEM does connect to other disciplines and encourage early learning of technology. This website has links to every type of Congressional planning and bills pending. Be sure and check it out from time to time; the articles are fascinating.

From the print world, the *Washington Post* had a piece on the fact that females most

Continued on next page

Food for Thought

Food for Thought

One, Two, Three (or That's It) Peanut Butter Cookies

Mary Louise Poolman

1 cup peanut butter (may be low fat or organic)

1 cup sugar (may also be sugar substitute, if it's in solid form; I think it leaves a bit of an after taste, though)

1 egg

That's It:

Mix. Recipe needs nothing else.

Measure a teaspoon worth of batter and roll into a ball.

3. Roll in sugar (or substitute).
4. Place on ungreased cookie sheet.
5. Press with fork and then press crisscross.
6. Bake at 350, for about 10 minutes, till firm.
7. Cool or let set for a minute. Remove to finish cooling on rack or paper.

Makes 1-2 dozen cookies.



Image from Creative Commons

News Eye on the Web...And Beyond (Continued)

often have low self-confidence in STEM areas, which leads to underachievement and thus hurts the spending power of the family. A February article in the *New York Times* pointed out the distressing fact that teachers' unconscious biases discourage girls from STEM courses. Our own *Austin American Statesman* has recently covered such topics as Eanes ISD iPad program; a long article on the LBJ LASA students refurbishing an area in Highland Mall to use as a place to develop their robotics projects for competition; the initiatives from Austin app developers and companies to encourage coding; and the young speaker at SXSWedu conference who told of how he works through dyslexia with an iPad and software. An Austin Community College 600 station computer math lab at Highland Mall was the showpiece for a visit by Dr. Jill Biden. She was very impressed with the way this lab will empower adult students to be successful.

The world of education is changing so quickly. It is a challenge to all of us to support those early career teachers who are eager to give students a chance to function productively in a world where technology is in every part of our daily lives.

Bernadine Eaton

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 : **Fed a Pig Lately?** Bring extra change (and folding money, too) to "feed" the ASTEF
 : piggy banks that attend our chapter meetings. All money raised this year by the Piggy
 : Posse goes directly to fund ASTEF Project Stipends.
 :



APRIL 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

MAY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

Looking Ahead

- April 5—Easter
- April 11—10 am, EK Chapter Meeting, Home of Forrest Hancock
- April 14—Lunch Bunch, 11:30 am, Central Market on N. Lamar
- May 2—11:30 am Founders' Day Luncheon, Green Pastures Restaurant, 811 W. Live Oak St., Austin
- May 10—Mother's Day
- May 25—Memorial Day
- June 25—27—TSO Convention, Grand Hyatt Hotel, San Antonio, TX
- July 22—25—Southwest Regional Conference, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Wichita, KS

SAVANNAH IN OCTOBER

Plan to travel in 2015? Join ASTEF for a Road Scholar program in Savannah, Georgia, October 11-16, 2015.

Program Highlights:

Lodging at the Hilton Savannah DeSoto Historic District

Most meals included

Historical lectures, field trips, interactive cooking class, live performances

Program Cost (per person not including travel to Savannah):

Double occupancy : \$1045

Single occupancy: \$1330

Ready to sign up? Consult the ASTEF website (www.astef.org) or the article on page 5 of the Spring 2015 *Lone Star News*. Invite your family and friends to join you in this adventure.



Image from Creative Commons

February Meeting Highlights

The February 7 meeting was held at Johnny Carino's Restaurant in south Austin. Guest speaker State Representative Larry Gonzales spoke about legislative issues relating to education, including funding, technology, and TRS Care. Representative Gonzales, who represents House District 52 in Williamson County, sits on the Redistricting, Local & Consent Calendars, Government Transparency & Operations, and Appropriations committees.

Mr. Gonzales shared with us that the State of Texas will have a lot of money for the 2016-2017 biennium, which makes it more challenging for the legislature to prioritize funds than it does when there is a shortage of funds. Mr. Gonzales is working on adaptable PE (physical education) issues (sometimes referred to as "adaptive" or "adapted" PE) to help ensure the mental needs as well as the physical needs of children with disabilities are being addressed. Mr. Gonzales authored a bill last year that lifted the age limit on insurance for children with autism. As a result of his efforts, there are no longer age restrictions for covering the costs of therapy for children with autism.

Mr. Gonzales reported that TRS and ERS (Employees' Retirement System) are actuarially sound through 30 years, meaning they can pay for future obligations from those funds through current contributions, but that does not mean that some tough decisions will not need to be made to cover TRS Care for the next biennium. He said to resolve the issue, it may be that active employees will be required to contribute more, or the school districts may be required to contribute more. He said everyone wants to avoid asking *current* retirees to contribute more.

Mr. Gonzales also said that there is discussion about changing the *defined contribution plan* to a different plan altogether, which would have negative consequences. He encouraged us to deliver the message to our state Senators that we do not wish to change the plan.

Evelyn Barron and Dr. Forrest Hancock provided information about DKG scholarships and grants. A new *Quick Guide for DKG Scholarships and Grants* spreadsheet, which includes information about application deadlines, requirements, and award amounts, was provided to attendees and is also available on the chapter website at <http://deltakappagamma-tx-epsilonkappa.weebly.com/foundations.html>.

Forrest also provided an update on the Del Valle Child Development Center Library Project, sharing pictures of the new space and donated books.

Both the DKG International President and the TSO President encourage chapters to use a *new process for recruiting new members*. Essentially, the new process involves chapter members completing "Prospect Cards", and voting on the prospects before the prospective member is aware they are being considered. In the summer, we would gather addresses and contact information and invite the prospects to an Orientation Mixer to be held mid-September. A chapter member/sponsor would work with the prospect at the Mixer to complete the remaining information in the application for membership and ask the prospect if she accepts the invitation to membership. Each member who said "yes" would receive an official letter inviting them to the initiation in October 2015. This new process has proven very successful for the chapters that have implemented it. Information about this recruitment process can be found on the TSO website at <http://www.dkgtxas.org/membership-committee.html> "Membership Recruitment Plan." As part of the initial recruitment process and to get the new members immediately engaged, prospects would be asked which committee or role they would like to participate in, and the new members would be nurtured by their sponsoring member until the new member is fully engaged.

Epsilon Kappa will send Nu Alpha, the new chapter in the Leander/Cedar Park area, some extra ceremonial items that are no longer needed/used by the chapter and \$25 to purchase items they need for initiation and other ceremonies. The installation of the new chapter is Sunday, April 12, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., at Austin Community College, Cypress Creek Campus. Members are encouraged to attend this special ceremony.

From the proceeds of the Fall Raffle, the chapter will donate \$25 each to the Golden Gift Fund, International Speaker's Fund, World Fellowships, ASTEF, and Eula Lee Carter Memorial Fund.

March Meeting Highlights

Epsilon Kappa's March meeting was held on March 2, 2015, at St. George's Episcopal Church in Austin. To kick off the special program on **Education for Homeless Students in Texas** and put us in the proper frame of mind, we began with a choral reading of "*Put a Little Love in Your Heart*" by Jackie DeShannon.

The *McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth* federal statute requires that each state establish an office of *Coordinator for Education of Homeless Children and Youth* to carry out certain duties in each state, including gathering data on homeless children and youth; facilitating coordination among social service, community organizations, and other agencies to provide services to children; coordinating and collaborating with educators and service providers; ensuring each school district designates a homeless education liaison and providing technical assistance to school districts; and ensuring that homeless children and youth have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education as provided to non-homeless children and youth by helping to remove barriers to enrollment, attendance, or success in school.

The office of *Coordinator for Education of Homeless Children and Youth* in Texas is known as the Texas Homeless Education Office (THEO), housed at the Charles A. Dana Center at the University of Texas at Austin. The state office is headed by Project Director Barbara Wand James, who was the guest speaker for this meeting.

Through her work at the University of Texas and the Texas Education Agency, Barbara has served the homeless students across the state of Texas along with their families for 24 years. She stated that it's becoming increasingly more important for educators to be cognizant of this issue because the number of homeless students is rising, and families with children make up a very large percentage of the homeless population. Her presentation to members included information about the definition of homelessness, the causes and contributing factors of homelessness, and the personal experiences of students who are homeless.

The *McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth* federal statute defines "homeless children and youth" as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including children who live in motels/hotels, camping grounds, shelters, facilities not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular nighttime sleeping accommodation for human beings, such as alleys, under bridges, in cars, in abandoned buildings, in tiny camping trailers, etc. The majority of homeless children and youth are living "doubled up", meaning they are sharing housing with other families due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason. Lack of affordable housing due to low or no wages and high cost of living is the primary cause for families doubling up. Family disintegration, family violence, natural disasters, and the death of a parent also contribute to homelessness.

In Texas, more than 100,000 students are homeless. Seventy percent of them are "doubled up." Barbara shared a video with us on THEO's website that is available at the following link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ev5XVRPwC3o&feature=youtu.be>. Entitled "*Worn Out Welcome Mat*", the 20-minute video "details the challenges faced by doubled-up children experiencing homelessness, what inspires them, how they can become resilient, and the supports needed for them to achieve educational success." It is heart-wrenching, but gives us a clue as to the kinds of physical and emotional challenges children and youth face when several families live in one small house. I think one could spend days, weeks, months, even years, examining the depths of the homeless situation just in the immediate Austin area, and still not have a true understanding of the depth and breadth of the issues those children and families really face on a daily basis.

We closed this portion of the program with another choral reading "*He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother*" by Scott and B. Russell.

The chapter presented Barbara with a frameable art thank you card, which was created by a homeless person at a shelter in Dallas, and a hand made rose necklace to remind her of Delta Kappa Gamma. Barbara was also presented with the large collection of items donated by members to distribute to homeless children most in need in the Austin area. The chapter collected travel-size toiletries, school supplies, backpacks, and gift cards September 2014 through March 2015 to benefit homeless children and youth. The chapter also presented Barbara with \$150, the total collected from the February and March Brag Baskets, to use to purchase clothing and other items for homeless children in need. Barbara was overwhelmed at the volume of donations and expressed sincere gratitude for the chapter's generosity. The project and program is this year's submittal for the Annie Award.

March Meeting Highlights (Continued)

Barbara has since reported that THEO staff delivered all of the items to Pflugerville ISD, which has seen significant increases in the number of homeless children and has insufficient resources to meet their growing demands. According to Barbara, “the homeless education liaison and social worker were elated! They expressed their gratitude for the items, which will be distributed to homeless children and youth as needs arise. The hygiene items will be especially useful for the unaccompanied homeless youth.”

Members who completed the chapter’s *Membership Preference Survey* were entered in a drawing for a \$50 gift card of their choosing. Guest speaker Barbara Wand James was invited to draw a winner and drew Bernadine Eaton! Bernadine selected a gift card to Dillard’s. Congratulations to Bernadine!

A total of 42 members (almost half of the membership) responded to the *Membership Preference Survey*. Key results of the Survey include the following:

34 members prefer a 6:00 social time, 6:30 meeting time, and adjournment by 8:00 p.m.

23 members prefer meeting on Monday, followed by Saturday for 19 members, with Tuesday or Thursday tied for third for 15 members

31 members prefer a consistent central meeting location

36 members prefer light refreshments such as cheese, crackers, and cookies or brownies (and I’m sure fruit, even though it wasn’t specifically listed) being provided during the social time.

Thanks to all of the members who responded to the survey. It confirms that we are headed in the right direction with our planning for 2015-2016.



From September 2014 through March 2015, the chapter collected school supplies, travel-size toiletries, backpacks, and gift cards to donate to homeless children and youth in the Austin area. Epsilon Kappa presented the items to Barbara Wand James, the Director of The Texas Homeless Education Office (THEO), at the March 2 meeting, who presented the items to the homeless education liaison at Pflugerville ISD, where the school supplies were displayed for these photos. Pflugerville ISD was so grateful to receive these items to help address the many needs of its homeless students. The **Education for Homeless Students in Texas** program and project is the chapter’s submittal for the Annie Award for 2014-2015.



Hemispheres—The International Area Studies Outreach Consortium

Hemispheres, the international outreach consortium at the University of Texas at Austin, utilizes University resources to promote and assist with world studies for K-12 and postsecondary schools, businesses, community groups, and the general public. Hemispheres is coordinated by five independent units that receive funding from multiple sources, including the Title VI International Area Studies Program of the US Department of Education:

- [Center for European Studies](#)
- [Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies](#)
- [Center for Middle Eastern Studies](#)
- [Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies](#)
- [South Asia Institute](#)
- [Center for International Business Education and Research](#)

Under the aegis of our Title VI mission, we are able to provide quality, free and low-cost resources that enhance understanding of diverse world regions to K-12 and post-secondary educators, business, the media, and civic and community groups.

Since our beginnings as a loose consortium in the mid-1990s, Hemispheres has seen its activities expand from a single jointly-funded annual workshop and a twice-yearly broadsheet to encompass a slate of activities and resources that make us one of the most active educational outreach programs of our kind in the United States.

By using Hemispheres as a conduit for all of our activities, we are able to offer a comprehensive, "one-stop shopping" approach for all of our efforts that allows you, the end user, to bookmark one Web address to access all of our services at <http://www.utexas.edu/cola/orgs/hemispheres/>.

UPCOMING EVENT: Summer Teachers' Institute 2015

Visit <http://www.utexas.edu/cola/orgs/hemispheres/events/35927>

Down the Rabbit Hole: Adventures in World Literature and the Social Studies June 9-12, 2015, University of Texas at Austin campus

Bringing world cultures, history, and geography to life in the classroom isn't always easy—it requires finding authentic voices from diverse cultures, places, and points in history. This can be hard enough with American history, but with 8,000 years of world history it can seem like an impossible task. Never fear! This year's Hemispheres Summer Teachers' Institute can help with this daunting task. Our workshops will focus on great works of world literature and place them in their historical and cultural contexts so that they can be used to enhance both the social studies and English/language arts curriculum. We'll focus on everything from folk tales and contemporary youth literature to the great classics—and we'll have a special insider look at the *Alice in Wonderland* exhibition at UT's famed Harry Ransom Center. Social studies educators, their ELA colleagues, and library/media specialists won't want to miss this year's workshop!

Cheryl Lane

Year at a Glance

Reserve the following dates on your calendar for chapter meetings and make plans to attend. Locations, programs, and hostesses are listed in the 2014-2015 chapter yearbook.

Saturday, April 11, 2015	10:00 a.m.
Saturday, May 2, 2015	11:30 a.m.
Thursday, September 10, 2015	6:00 p.m.
Monday, October 5, 2015	6:00 p.m.



Image from Creative Commons

Give yourself the gift of time to attend meetings. If you are unable to attend every meeting, try to attend at least one meeting in the Fall and at least one in the Spring. You will benefit greatly from the fellowship and personal/professional growth.

Have You Registered Yet?

The 2015 State Convention will be June 25-27 in San Antonio, Texas at the Grand Hyatt on the River Walk. **Have you registered yet?**

The Convention Schedule at a Glance is on page 6 of the state newsletter, Spring 2015 *Lone Star News*. It includes: many break-out sessions (workshops) for CPE credit or just for enjoyment each of the 3 days, General Session – Thursday evening, Ceremony of Remembrance – Friday morning, Birthday Luncheon – Friday noon, exceptional speakers, Presentation of Chapter Presidents – Friday evening (Bernadine Eaton will introduce the presidents & Earin Martin will be presented), Business meeting – Saturday morning, ASTEF meeting – Saturday noon (Evelyn Barron, presiding), and the Banquet – Saturday evening (nominees Marilyn Gregory and Sandi Causey installed if elected). **Have you registered yet?**

Come to San Antonio, enjoy the River Walk, eat great food, learn through break-out sessions, bring your own tote bag, and support Earin, Marilyn & Sandi. One chapter already has 20 members attending. Let's see if we can top that! **Have you registered yet?**

The registration form is located online at the DKG Texas website: www.dkgtxas.org or in your *Lone Star News*. Registration forms should be sent to Sandi Causey. See you in San Antonio!

Marilyn Gregory

Just a Reminder

Did You Notice? Epsilon Kappa's **SEE Mentoring Project** is featured in an article on page 11 of the Spring 2015 *Lone Star News*!!

Support educators and their students in the Austin area by contributing to **EPSILON KAPPA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**. The Foundation contribution form is available on our chapter website. All contributions are tax deductible.

Eye On Educational Excellence

April is the month for celebrating individual achievements, successes, and honors of chapter members. Pam Kelly will be telling you about Lakeway Elementary School 3rd grade teacher Mindy Smith, who was voted as the Epsilon Kappa Chapter *Outstanding First-Year Teacher*. Our own Julie Jistel served as her campus mentor and Deb Acevedo-Tamminga was her Texas Teachers field supervisor. Mary Louise Poolman will be acknowledging and honoring all of our members' awards, achievements, and accomplishments, and we will have pins and certificates for our members receiving their 25-year pins.



Image from Creative Commons

May 2 is scheduled for our *Founders Day Luncheon* hosted by the five chapters in the Coordinating Council of Austin at the beautiful, historical Green Pastures Restaurant. The chapter member from Epsilon Kappa to receive the Austin Coordinating Council *DKG Outstanding Educator* award will be revealed. (This year a member from each of the Austin chapters will receive an award.) Additionally, Epsilon Kappa is responsible for presenting the program on our 12 founders. We'll be presenting a fun program entitled *Hats Off to Our Founders* that was originally presented at a DKG Chi State Convention in 2011 (California). Fourteen of our chapter members will sing some new words to the tune, *Sentimental Journey*, and read about each DKG founding member while wearing a hat to portray the founder they represent. Chapter participants include: Janet Bernard, Cindy Gruner, Earin Martin, Mary Louise Poolman, Kathy Mihalik, Cheryl Lane, Marilyn Gregory, Jo Watts, Pam Kelly, Sandi Causey, Deb Acevedo-Tamminga, Elizabeth Newell, Kristen Lowrie, and Bernadine Eaton. Of course, all luncheon participants will sing *The Delta Kappa Gamma Song* to close the luncheon. So come ready to eat, learn, celebrate, and sing.



Deb Acevedo-Tamminga



Newsletter Information

Please submit your articles and highlights for our next Chapter newsletter on or before Friday, May 15. You can send your submissions by email to Diane Sidoroff at diane.sidoroff@gmail.com or to Earin Martin at grantsmanagement101@gmail.com.

During this year, members may be asked to submit articles about their reflections of meetings or other DKG activities. We want to involve as many people as possible to highlight the diversity of our chapter. Also, let us know about your Life Milestones, whether you have attended a meeting or not. News is always appreciated.

Please contact Marcia Kirkland if you wish to receive a printed copy of the newsletter, though we are trying to “go green” and send most by e-mail. Thanks, Marcia, for your help with communications!

Epsilon Kappa Chapter The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

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Let's Celebrate!

Here is a list of birthdays to celebrate in April and May:

Cindy Gruner	04-13	Kristen Lowrie	05-07
Barbara Braden	04-14	Leila Dumas	05-07
Margie Kincer	04-14	Sherri Greenberg	05-27
Charlotte May	04-19	Kristin Shapiro	05-18
Aggie Curry-Jones	04-21	Shauna Duby	05-22
Kate Miranda	04-22	Elizabeth A Newell	05-27
Marcia Kirkland	04-27		



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