

*The Delta Kappa
Gamma Society
International*

*Epsilon Kappa
Chapter #130*

*Texas State
Austin, TX
Area 7*

Editor

Diane Sidoroff

diane.sidoroff@gmail.com

The Reporter

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

International Theme: DKG: Leading Women Educators, Impacting Education Worldwide

State Theme: Bridging Yesterday and Tomorrow

Chapter Theme: Be Progressive

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President's Message

Our state President, Dr. Jo Murphy, has chosen the symbol of a bridge as our TSO logo for the theme: *Bridging Yesterday and Tomorrow*. This reflects what our founder Annie Webb Blanton said:

Be progressive. Keep up with the moving world while not discarding what in the old has value. But, don't cling to the old when its worth has passed. Don't be a person so set in your views that nothing can change you.

My challenge for our chapter is to *Be Progressive!* I am enthusiastic about the possibilities ahead of us, but I do not want to devalue what came before. We are coming into a critical time of change for our Society at chapter, state and international levels. I want us to encourage taking risks and to welcome change and allow it to happen.

Our Society offers leadership, service, empowerment, connections and networks of opportunity to name a few. We need to spread the word! For too long DKG has been a society that people have heard of and not really understood. For this biennium our chapter goals focus on membership, marketing, professional development, support and continued digital initiatives.

Our chapter can be strengthened by building membership diversity across all types and levels of education. We should continue with our approach of prospective members from K-12 and higher education. But we should also think outside the box. What about prospective members such as industry specific trainers, educational program designers or the administrators who make it all happen?

To strengthen membership we must market our Society and chapter. International has developed wonderful membership and marketing brochures for chapter use. As a chapter we have created business cards that list our chapter, state and international websites along with an area for member contact information. As members, you can use these marketing tools to approach prospects about our Society and joining. Or you can leave a stack in teacher lounges. These will be available at our September meeting!

Our Educational Excellence Committee has developed fantastic programs for our chapter meetings. Three of these can specifically qualify as professional development with CPE credits provided to attendees. For each of these programs, I will encourage you to invite educators you know to attend and for only five dollars receive CPE credits. This not only serves for professional development, but also the opportunity to showcase our chapter and Society for membership recruitment! We will continue our support of educators in Austin

President's Message continued

and around the world through Schools for Africa and S.E.E. – Supporting Early-career Educators. As a Society we have gone digital in areas of publication, resources and membership. As a chapter we must continue growth in the digital arena and need to explore how our chapter can create engagement on social media.

With these goals in mind, I make the appeal to each of you - please use your unique gifts and talents to keep our chapter legacy thriving and let me know in what capacity you would like to contribute. We need our members across all disciplines and generations to continue our movement forward. We can only keep our chapter strong and successful together. At any time, please feel free to supply ideas or provide feedback for our chapter. I look forward to working with and serving all of you as Epsilon Kappa's President for 2018-2020.

Be Progressive,

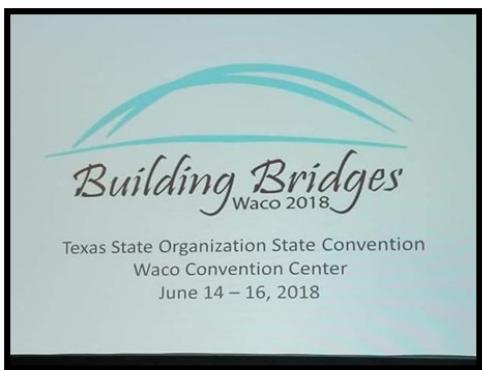
Cheryl

Submitted by Cheryl Lane

Waco Reflections

- Waco was my third DKG State Convention. This one was different from the others because it was shorter, since the DKG International Convention in Austin was the next month.
- Last year I was asked to join the state music committee; it was exciting to organize with them in February and sing with the entire choir in Waco. Readings connected the songs to Houston hurricane support and the TSO Bridges vision.
- I loved that we had 15-minute Info Blasts; everyone agreed to cut the fluff and get straight to the heart of the matter. The Music Info Blast highlighted using music in chapter meetings, being aware of copyright, and participating with us in singing a song using the instruments Deb Acevedo-Tamminga and Charlotte Brown had our chapter create a couple of years ago.
- It was really amazing to hear from the Waco Superintendent because he worked in Austin ISD for a while when I worked downtown. I couldn't talk with him because he slipped out so quickly.
- It's great to go to state conventions because they're smaller and you get to know members and chapters. Plus you get to hang with all the members who come from our chapter!

Submitted by Norma Jost



Epsilon Kappa members who attended TSO in Waco....Bernadine Eaton, Marcia Kirkland, Evelyn Barron, Pam Kelly, Cheryl Lane, Marilyn Gregory, Sandi Causey, Norma Jost, Earin Martin

International Convention in Austin

As you may have heard, the 2018 DKG International Convention happened right here in Austin this summer. I had the honor of attending along with 25 members of our chapter and over 2,000 members from chapters worldwide. I first learned of DKG when I served as the UT program manager of the Golden Gift Leadership Seminar from 2004-2012. Over the course of the week, I was so blessed to reconnect with many of the seminar alumni who attended from all over the U.S. and world!

Our own Sandi Causey served as Convention Registrar and Marcia Kirkland as Convention Steering Committee Treasurer. And Marcia did not hesitate recruiting all of us who attended to assist in making things happen! Our chapter members pitched in along with over 600 other Texas volunteers greeting arrivals at the airport, at registration, setting up table decorations, gift bags, providing walking tours, serving as table hostesses, manning the headquarters tour table and providing those tours. I cannot speak for everyone, but through volunteering I made at least 500 new DKG friends from around the state, country and world.

- Submitted by Cheryl Lane



Epsilon Kappa members voting on proposed Constitutional Amendments



Convention Registrar
Sandi Causey



President Cheryl Lane and
2018 - 2020 Southwest Regional
Director Marilyn Gregory



Kathy Mihalik and Elizabeth Newell working
at the Headquarters Tours Table

Scenes from International Convention



Pam Kelly at the vintage Austin neon sign



Epsilon Kappa members Marcia Kirkland, Pam Kelly, and Cathy Nitsch after the "Downtown Stroll" excursion to see the bats with our Japanese members



Second Vice-President Gracie Esquivel with the "bluebonnet" balloon display



More Epsilon Kappa airport greeters....Mary Harney, Gracie Esquivel, Alpha member Barbara tenBrink, Kim Thonhoff



Epsilon Kappa members at the Headquarters Tours table



Texas member Delna Bryan reading the "Welcome to Texas" poem on Texas Night, with all 18 flags and International sign on stage



Norma Jost in Convention Chorus



Texas Night Goodie Bags....2000 Dr Pepper, Lammes Candies pralines in "fingerpainted" bluebonnet bags



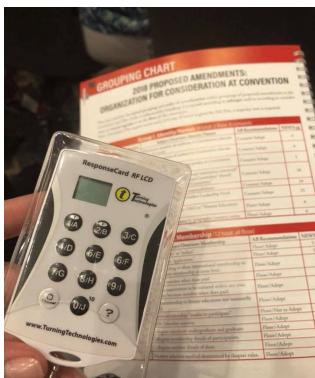
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An International Convention in Austin

In July DKG International returned to its roots, holding an international convention in Austin. Twenty-six Epsilon Kappa members attended. The week was marked by Texas volunteers wearing “jeweled” bluebonnets, tours of Society Headquarters, Texas Night featuring the Warren Hood Band, excellent motivational speakers, breakout sessions galore, a marketplace not to be missed, consideration of proposals to amend DKG governing documents, and festive meal events. At the closing banquet we were thrilled to see our own Marilyn Gregory installed as the new Southwest Regional Director.

Nine of our chapter members – most of whom had never attended an international convention – received Phyllis Richards Leadership Grants to cover some of their expenses. Below are their observations and comments about the convention.

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“As a proud member and Texas volunteer, I got to see firsthand how this group of dedicated women educators encourage new educators and how they work to improve DKG programs. We welcomed with warmth and open hearts educators from around the world to our home and the International Headquarters.

“This opportunity to host an international convention was an eye-opening experience. We participated in the election process and reviewed amendments to the current *Constitution*. We also voted using hand held devices on proposed amendments that gave membership a voice in our Society’s direction.

“Thank you for the opportunity to experience this convention as a volunteer and a member. I received a small taste of the vast dedication of this international group of women educators.”

- Kathy Mihalik

“I was very fortunate to have my first DKG convention be international. The amazing women I met throughout the week from all over the world reinforced how lucky I am to be in such great company. I can’t wait for the next one!”

- Jeanette Abrajan



“I initially served as an airport greeter on Monday morning and crossed paths with so many delightful educators coming with such high enthusiasm and great anticipation for the opportunities about to unfold before them during the week. I think sometimes we take for granted the wealth of access we have here in Austin to International Headquarters. Meeting these lovely ladies really opened my eyes to all the wonders and possibilities we do indeed have at our fingertips. Being here connected closely with the heart of the organization is no longer a complacent reality.

“I have been re-ignited in the passion for Delta Kappa Gamma by the radiance of those coming with such contagious spirit and devotion for this organization. Also, I am forever grateful that I was able to attend the keynote speaker sessions. My attendance at the international convention left me pondering on very relevant issues and sparked once again a passion for service.”

- Kim Thonhoff

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Convention continued

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"The convention offered many informative sessions and an opportunity to meet fellow DKG sisters. We were especially fortunate to have inspirational guest speakers."

- Gracie Esquivel

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"It was great greeting DKG members at the airport. It was fun deciding which folks were DKG members, often because they were wearing DKG paraphernalia. Being in the international choir was amazing – so many singers from all over the world! My Tapestry Singers loved singing in the Marketplace. I loved discovering I could take the metro rail downtown and not worry about parking. Such an amazing opportunity to attend an international convention! I was happy so many attended from our chapter and that I met many new friends."

- Norma Jost

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"Loved the high energy and devoted members who attended! I especially enjoyed meeting a new sister from the northeast with whom someone set me up long before the convention! We corresponded for about a month before she and her friends arrived in Austin!"

- Carolyn Wilson



Mark Your Calendar: Chapter Programs

Join us as we kick off the year on Saturday, September 8, in the Hatlen Room at Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. We will hear from Tim Lee, Executive Director, Texas Retired Teachers Association. He directs the TRTA office and legislative program; provides organizational support to Board of Directors and represents TRTA at TRS, in the Texas Legislature, Congress and at various public gatherings. Mr. Lee will be giving us important updates on TRS, Social Security and Retirement. Do not miss it!

When/Where: Saturday, September 8, 2018, 10:00 am – Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Hatlen Room, 1100 W 45th St. Austin, TX 78756

Program: The Changing Landscape of Retirement: Updates on TRS, Social Security, and Retirement

Speaker: Tim Lee, Executive Director, TRTA

DKG members from other chapters in the Austin area have been invited to join us for this meeting. Please feel free to bring friends who are not DKG members as well. Tim Lee has important information for anyone who is currently teaching as well as those who are retired.



For our Thursday, October 4th meeting, we will initiate new members, remember members that we've lost, celebrate birthdays, learn more about our founders and our chapter's history. Featured speaker will be DKG International President Cathy Daugherty. Please join us, meet the international president, and learn more about our chapter and Delta Kappa Gamma's history.

When/Where: Thursday, October 4, 2018, 6:00 pm – Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Headquarters, 416 W. 12th St., Austin, TX 78701

Program: Speaker, Initiation, Birthday celebrations and Remembrance

Speaker: Cathy Daugherty, 2018-2020 International President

Submitted by Luisa Hernandez

Book Lovers

Over the summer we have tackled Jeff Abbott's thriller mystery book, *Blame*. The Associated Press calls him "one of the best thriller writers in the business." We picked his latest book because he has a connection to Epsilon Kappa. He was with his wife, Leslie Abbott, this April when she was presented with our First Year Teacher Award. Sandi found out about his career so we decided to delve into one of his stand-alone books plus this one uses Austin as the location for the novel.

Jane Norton is a teen-age girl who causes a wreck that kills her friend David but leaves her with amnesia. As she tries to recover her memory, a note that she wrote makes her sound suicidal. She questions when she penned that message, why she was on that hill country road, and why she would have David with her. As in all good mysteries, some of the bad characters turn out to be good, and some good ones become her enemies. There are many twists in the plot as the story hurtles toward an unexpected end.

No date has been set for our discussion so anyone who is intrigued by mystery books can pick up this book and will find it a very fast read. We will send out a place and time when the details are settled.

- Submitted by Bernadine Eaton

Hospitality Teams

Hospitality Teams are responsible for “hosting” one meeting per year. The team leader coordinates with Chapter President Cheryl Lane, Arrangements Chair Kate Starkes, and team members.

Responsibilities:

- refreshments
- greeting members
- helping with name tags/sign-in sheet
- welcoming guest speakers
- decorations when appropriate
- collection for the Brag Basket
- clean up.

Each team leader is responsible for ensuring that all members on her team are **contacted** via phone, text or email to remind them of each upcoming meeting.

Also, the team leader should keep the chapter informed about team members. Newsletter articles/emails about special happenings in our lives are important to stay in touch with one other.

*** Honorary/Out of Town



September/Green Ann Lilie

Debra Aceves
Glenda Bell
Georgia Clegg
Marion Coffee-Carney
Marilyn Gregory
Alana Lilie
Leslie Mellenbruch
Earin Martin
Jenna Rice
Diane Sidoroff
Judy Wallace
Ashley White
Barbara Braden***

October/Orange Pam Kelly

Glenda Ballard
Sandi Causey
Rosemary Cuellar
Carole Deuser
Cara Hamlin
Charlotte Hanna
Margie Kincer
Kristen Lowrie
Cathy Nitsch
Melissa Saldana
Amparo Shanor
Tamara Wood
Aggie Curry-Jones***
Mary Louise Poolman***

November/Brown Gracie Esquivel

Deb Acevedo-Tamminga
Erin Bown-Anderson
Yvette Cardenas
Kristal Espitia
Luisa Hernandez
Kitty Mellenbruch
Kathy Mihalik
Ashley Nauta
Eva Ornelas
Ely Rodriguez
Debbie Sansom
Kate Starkes
Leila Dumas***

December/Red Evelyn Barron

Evelyn Bollinger
Terrie Bovinich
Kate Garza
Forrest Hancock
Linda Holt
Gene Nelson-Jones
Claudia Knowles
Cheryl Lane
Phyllis Richards
Carolyn Wilson
Tracey Wilson
Debra Wissman
Sherri Greenberg***
Lilian Villafuerte***

March/Purple Norma Jost

Jeanette Abrajan
Dorothy Baum
Charlotte Brown
Joan Burnham
Carmen Ferrer-McCluskey
Helen Forbes
Marielo Morales
Elizabeth Newell
Lisa Robertson
Jennifer Samaniego
Debbie Tonne
Charlene Zimmermann
Kaye Dunn***
Anita Howard***

April/Blue Marcia Kirkland

Janet Bernard
Hilda Diaz
Kathy Dixon
Martha Dolman
Bernadine Eaton
Toni Fuller
Ashley Glidewell
Cindy Gruner
Charlotte May
Julia Mellenbruch
Kim Thonhoff
Jo Watts
Maurine Atwood***
Mary Ortiz-Boland***



Remembering Two Chapter Members

Epsilon Kappa has lost two long-time members since we last met. Maria McPhail passed away in May, and Margaret Wallace in August.



Maria McPhail was a Library Media Specialist and an active chapter member for most of her 48+ years of membership. She was involved in many chapter committees and was very supportive and encouraging to members. Many of us remember Marie wearing her beautiful hats to meetings and events.



Margaret Wallace, 57-year member, was a kindergarten teacher who mentored many DKG members. She believed in teaching the whole child by providing experiences for students to learn through participation. Faithful to serve as needed, Margaret received the Epsilon Kappa Achievement Award in 1992.

Over the years, both Maria and Margaret invited us into their homes for chapter meetings. They will be remembered at the October 4th chapter meeting at Society Headquarters. Come and share stories or learn more about these two remarkable Epsilon Kappa chapter members.

- Submitted by Marilyn Gregory and Evelyn Barron

Please Update Your Yearbook Listing Now!

Think about it – Has anything changed in your listing since last year? Have you moved? Have you changed your preferred phone number? Do you have a new job or title? Have you retired? Has your email address changed? Please note that personal email addresses are preferred, since school districts frequently block outside emails.

If any of this information is different from what was listed in the 2017-2018 chapter yearbook, please send the updates to either Jo Watts (jwatts35@austin.rr.com) or Evelyn Barron (ebarron106@aol.com). If you have already sent your corrections, thank you!

The 2018-2019 chapter yearbook will be sent electronically to members in two formats: 1) page-order format for downloading to your electronic devices, and 2) booklet format for printing. Members who do not have access to email (and those who make a specific request) will receive a printed copy. We are following DKG suggestions to communicate electronically as much as possible, as well as hoping to save money for other chapter uses.



Where Do My Contributions Go?

When you pay your Epsilon Kappa dues each year, you are also given an opportunity to donate to the **EPSILON KAPPA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**. This foundation belongs to chapter members and manages two funds – the Phyllis Richards Endowed Leadership Fund and the Chapter Projects Fund.

The Richards Fund originated with generous contributions from our own member Dr. Phyllis Richards. By donating to the fund, you are assisting chapter members to attend DKG leadership events. Nine Epsilon Kappa chapter members received Richards Grants to pay part of their expenses to attend the recent 2018 DKG International Convention in Austin.

Our Epsilon Kappa SEE (Supporting Early-career Educators) Project is also supported by the foundation. While we have received grants from other foundations to support this project, your donations to the Chapter Projects Fund provide needed classroom and instructional materials that are not covered by the grants. Chapter members serve as mentors to early-career educators in several Title I elementary schools in the Austin area.

All contributions to the **EPSILON KAPPA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION** are tax deductible. Contributions may be made at any time during the year. All contributions will be acknowledged.

Building Bridges in Area 7

Saturday, September 15, 2018

Patsy Sommer Elementary

16200 Avery Ranch Blvd., Austin, TX 78717

8:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Come enjoy a morning of fellowship and learning with your Area 7 Delta Kappa Gamma friends! Attend training sessions for chapter officers, committee chairs and members, plus sessions on other topics such as “Googlizing Your Chapter,” “Card Tricks, Cowboy Puzzles, and Dr. Seuss,” “Coach or Mentor-Tips for Staying in the Profession,” “Educational Travel,” “Writing the Sand: Education of Children and Women in Sierra Leone,” and many more!

Registration and continental breakfast begin at 8:45. The Opening Session will start at 9:15 a.m.

Eleven Epsilon Kappa members have already registered – to jog your memory!

Deb Acevedo-Tamminga

Norma Jost

Evelyn Barron

Pam Kelly

Bernadine Eaton

Marcia Kirkland

Marilyn Gregory

Cheryl Lane

Luisa Hernandez

Earin Martin

Linda Holt

Marielo Morales



Registration fee is \$15 at the door – PLEASE come and join us!!!!

Upcoming Epsilon Kappa Chapter Programs

When: Thursday, November 8, 2018, 6:00 pm

Where: Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Hatlen Room, 1100 W 45th St.

Program: Asylum/refugee families and their Children in Central Texas schools
How can we meet their needs and better assist them?

Speaker: Maria Arabbo.

When: Thursday, December 6, 2018, 6:00 pm

Where: Pillow Elementary Library, 3025 Crosscreek Dr

Program: Hands-On Technology – Integrating STEM, Robotics, Coding, & Motivating the 21st Century Learner

Speakers: Hilda Diaz & Cara Hamlin

When: Saturday, February 2, 2019, 11:00 am

Where: Saltgrass Steakhouse, North Research Blvd

Program: The value of gender diversity, why empowering women matters, and how each generation is uniquely suited to affect change

Speaker: Colette Pierce Burnette (President of Huston Tillotson University)

When: Saturday, March 9, 2019, 10:00 am

Where: Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Hatlen Room, 1100 W 45th St.

Program: Mental Health Panel: How do we assist our students and children in the ever-changing world of technology?

Speakers: Elementary and Secondary Counselors from different districts

When: Saturday, April 6, 2019, 10:00 am

Where: Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Headquarters, 416 W 12th St.

Program: Initiation, Awards, etc.

Speaker: TBA

Saturday, May 4, 2019 – Founder's Day at University of Texas Thompson Center



EPSILON KAPPA CHAPTER DUES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

October 2018

home
 cell

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email _____

ACTIVE MEMBER DUES: \$ **90**

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS:

EPSILON KAPPA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION (tax deductible)

Each member contributing at least \$50 will be recognized as a **Sustaining Donor**.

Phyllis Richards Endowed Leadership Fund \$ _____

Chapter Foundation Projects / SEE Project \$ _____

Make check payable to EPSILON KAPPA. Grand Total \$ _____

Mail by October 4th to Marcia Kirkland, 12314 W. Cow Path, Austin, TX 78727 (phone 512.250.2026)

→ Contribution forms for state and international funds may be found in the **Forms** section of the respective websites (www.dkgtexas.org and www.dkg.org).

Photo Release: By submitting your membership dues and by your attendance at chapter meetings and events, you are granting permission to be filmed, videotaped, audio-taped, or photographed by any means at such meetings and events and are granting full use of your likeness, voice, and words, including publication on the world wide web (www) with access through the internet, without compensation.

Officers for the New Biennium



2018 - 2020 Epsilon Kappa Executive Board

First row --- First VP Norma Jost, President Cheryl Lane, Second VP Gracie Esquivel

Top row --- Secretary Ann Lile, Past President Pam Kelly, Treasurer Marcia Kirkland,
Parliamentarian Evelyn Barron



Marilyn Gregory is installed as
the 2018-2020 Southwest
Regional Director.



Newsletter Information

Please submit your articles and highlights for our next Chapter newsletter on or before Friday, Sept. 14th. You can send your submissions by email to Diane Sidoroff at diane.sidoroff@gmail.com or to Cheryl Lane at cheryl.lane@mccombs.utexas.edu.

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

Diane Sidoroff
901 Creekbend Drive
Pflugerville, TX 78660

Chapter Website: <https://www.epsilonkappatx.com/>

Looking for New Members

As a new school year begins, Epsilon Kappa wishes to invite new members to our chapter. We hope to identify potential new members, invite them to an orientation session, and induct them into membership at our October meeting at Society Headquarters. Please let Pam Kelly, Membership Committee chair, know about any potential members.

It is always nice to have several new members, since that makes it more fun for them. ANYONE can invite a new member, so look around at school, church, community and tell women educators about DKG!! Use your DKG Epsilon Kappa business cards to share website information about DKG International and Texas State Organization, as well as the Epsilon Kappa website.



Submitted by Pam Kelly
pammkelly@gmail.com

Let's Celebrate!

Here is a list of birthdays to celebrate in August and September:

Gene Nelson Jones	08-02	Kristal Espitia	08-18	Georgia Clegg	09-15
Maurine Atwood	08-02	Cheryl Lane	08-23	Helen Forbes	09-24
Dr Forrest Hancock	08-08	Tamara Wood	08-25	Eva J Ornelas	09-25
Carolyn H Wilson	08-12	Debbie Sansom	08-28	Kaye Dunn	09-28
Jennifer Samaniego	08-17	Amparo Shanor	09-01	Alana Lilie	09-29
Carole Deuser	08-18	Julia Mellenbruch	09-04		

