

The Reporter

The Delta Kappa
Gamma Society
International

Epsilon Kappa
Chapter #130

Texas State
Austin, TX
Area 7

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: Women Educators ... inspire and be inspired

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Editor

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President's Message

Epsilon Kappa had a very busy Fall and has many things to look forward to this Spring.

Our February luncheon will be at the Saltgrass Steak House, 10614 Research Boulevard, on Saturday, February 2, 2019, 11:00 am. Our speaker is the President of Huston-Tillotson University. She is an inspiring speaker and will speak about the value of gender diversity: why empowering women matters, and how each generation is uniquely suited to effect change. What would our founders say about empowering women and why that matters? I would say this is a great way to start off this new year! Also, we're looking forward to our Founders Day Celebration with all of the Austin chapters on May 4th—SAVE THE DATE. It should be a fun celebration. More information will be provided as details are confirmed.

Epsilon Kappa chapter has a busy spring. Let's celebrate each other one another as women and as educators, including honoring chapter members for personal achievements and honoring an outstanding first-year teacher. This special award affords the chapter the opportunity to identify and honor an outstanding first-year teacher in our community. Please submit your nominations for a first-year teacher who demonstrates enthusiasm, dedication, and knowledge of subject matter. This nominee should possess an active interest in professional growth, as well as a genuine concern for students. The guidelines and the nominations form for *Outstanding First Year Teacher* are on our website:

<https://www.epsilonkappatx.com/documents-and-forms.html>. Send the nomination form to the chair of the Educational Excellence Committee Luisa Hernandez luisa.hernandez@austinisd.org.

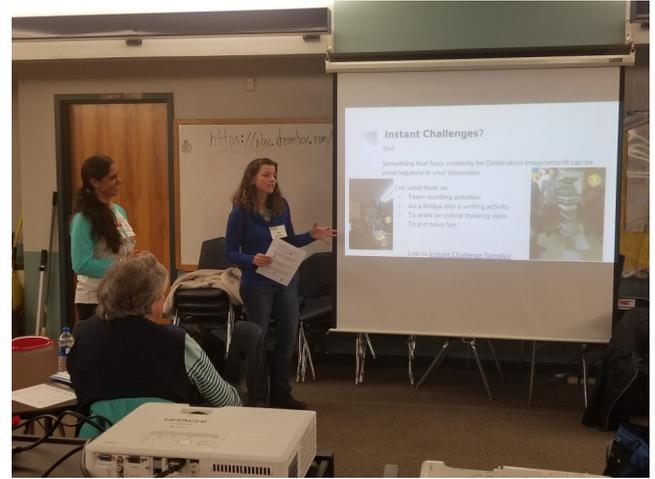
This summer we have a few opportunities to promote professional and personal growth of women educators. We are all looking forward to the Texas State Organization Convention at the Arlington Convention Center from June 20-22, 2019. This is the 90th TSO Convention! A possible "Rangers Social" gathering is in the works. Be sure to continue checking the TSO website for more details. Also, DKG holds international conferences in the odd numbered years, and this summer the International Conference in the southwest area is in Costa Mesa, California. As Southwest Regional Director, Marilyn Gregory is planning this conference which will be held July 17-20, 2019 with the theme - Technology. Speakers, workshops and takeaway presentations will center around technology but other topics will also be offered.

Learn, grow and celebrate this spring and summer!
Kathy Mihalik

December Meeting Highlights



December meeting at Pillow Elementary computer lab



December meeting presenters Hilda Diaz and Cara Hamlin



An abundance of toys and books collected for the Walnut Creek Asylee Refugee students

Despite a rainy, gloomy day, those in attendance for our December 6 meeting at Pillow Elementary were cheered by the bountiful collection of toys and books for the refugee children at Walnut Creek. These were sorted and delivered to the 54 students on December 19. As always, we each received a beautiful pin-on angel from Marilyn Gregory in memory of her mother. After our delicious snacks we were eager to learn all about Hands-On Technology as presented by Hilda Diaz and Cara Hamlin. We immediately were challenged to insert a gummy fish into a lifesaver and deposit into a bowl using only toothpicks. After several minutes of laughter and advice giving, several teams achieved success. This is one type of motivating activity any learner can tackle which encourages teamwork and problem solving.

Cara handed out a list of helpful links and QR codes for teachers to use for ideas and activities. She showed a video of her middle school students constructing robots and designing projects. Cara emphasized that however the lesson is presented, it should highlight a real life issue. The focus is on multiple answers, how students use inquiry and show creativity. In the 21st Century classroom, the teacher sets the framework for the lesson, but the students drive the learning using trial and error and asking questions. Cara pointed out that there is a series of Lego robotic kits that are easy for the teacher to implement. National Instruments has adults ready to assist classes. This is a great way for young learners to link school with a career path. Hilda discussed what is needed to support this type of lesson. Makerspace is the term for any place that is created for students to explore and use materials as they work on projects. At her Georgetown primary school, Hilda has a whole room set aside for teachers to use, much like a computer room. But smaller spaces can be utilized within one's own classroom. She showed us how her students had ended their study of oceans by making videos of their learning.

Even though today's teacher may be using computers, video making, and robotic kits, the essence of teaching is still to direct, encourage, and praise the child as he or she interacts positively with others to solve problems.

Submitted by Bernadine Eaton

Epsilon Kappa's February Luncheon

Saturday, February 2, 2019
11:00 a.m.

Saltgrass Steakhouse
10614 Research Blvd.

Menu choices to be determined, but will be comparable to the following:

Soup and Sandwich
Veggie Plate
Grilled Chicken Salad
Hill Country Chicken Salad
Tenderloin Tips

Cost: \$15 per person – drink, dessert, tax and gratuity included

Send check for \$15 payable to **Epsilon Kappa** to
Marcia Kirkland
12314 W Cow Path
Austin, TX 78727

Deadline for payment – Monday, January 28, 2019
It is important to have an accurate count. Please pay promptly!

Email marciakirkland@gmail.com with any questions or concerns

Calling New Members

Please think about women that you know—at school, church, workout class, sports events, neighbors, friends, and college students— who might be potential Epsilon Kappa members. Invite them to our March meeting, send them a copy of our latest newsletter, and give them our websites: chapter (www.epsilonkappatx.com), state (www.dkgtexas.org) and DKG International (www.dkg.org) to learn all the things DKG does. A new member orientation will be scheduled at the end of March. Please send me a prospect's name, contact information, (address, phone number, email address), where they work and their position, so that I can follow up by contacting them. A prospect does not need to attend a meeting. From the Epsilon Kappa website, find the prospect card and email it to me with names of ladies we can invite to become members. Our next member induction is in April. It's always more fun to be part of a small group, so put on your hospitality hats and reach out to encourage new members.

Submitted by Pam Kelly



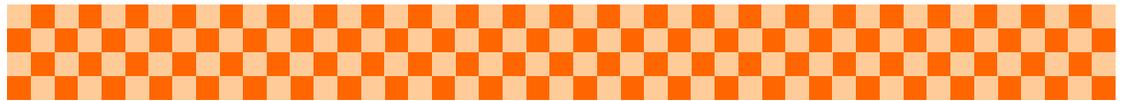
February and March Programs

Saturday, February 2, 2019, 11:00 am – Saltgrass Steak House, 10614 Research Boulevard, Austin Texas.

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

Speaker: Dr. Colette Pierce-Burnette (Huston Tillotson's President)

Please join us on Saturday, February 2nd to be inspired by the first female President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the historic Huston-Tillotson University Dr. Colette Pierce Burnette. She has been named an Austin Fab Five by the Seedling Foundation, a Top 25 Woman in the nation in Higher Education by a leading higher education magazine, DIVERSE, and received the Community Hero award from the Anti-Defamation League. Dr. Colette Pierce Burnette will enlighten us about the value of gender diversity, why empowering women matters, and how each generation is uniquely suited to affect change.



Saturday, March 9, 2019, 9:30 am (program starts at 10:00am)– Texas School for the Blind, Hatlen Room, 1100 W 45th St. Austin, TX

Program: Let's Talk- Starting the Mental Health Conversation with your Teen

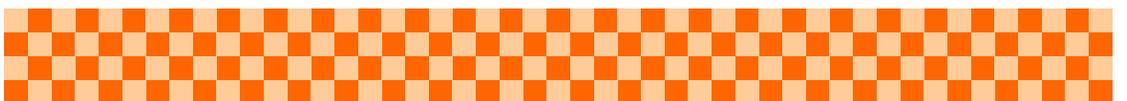
Presenter: NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness

<https://www.namiaustin.org/education/lets-talk/>

It's time to talk about mental health! Research shows that 1 in 5 teens experience a mental health issue, with depression and anxiety being the most common diagnosis. Left untreated, these conditions can worsen and impact all aspects of a teen's life. More than 40% of teens are not receiving the care and treatment they need—often because they are too embarrassed to talk about mental health or don't know how to ask for help.

This 1 hour presentation will provide teachers, parents and caregivers simple tools for proactively addressing this important health issue with the goal of encouraging positive conversations that help teens feel more comfortable seeking help for themselves or their friends.

Submitted by Luisa Hernandez



Getting to Know Our Members

Hello, my name is Melissa Saldaña. I was born and raised in Houston, Texas and I am the youngest of two brothers and three sisters, which makes me an aunt to 5 nieces and 10 nephews! I graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in May 2015 with a bachelor's degree in Applied Learning and Development. Hook'em! I am a Two-Way Fourth Grade Dual Language Teacher at Caldwell Heights Elementary in Round Rock ISD, and this is my fourth year of teaching. My first two years in the classroom, I was a Bilingual Pre-K Teacher. This summer, I was selected to be a part of a Research Experience for Teachers grant at UT Austin and I worked alongside a Chemist in a Science Laboratory and had



the opportunity to create my own science curriculum that I will be implementing this April. One of the many reasons I decided to choose bilingual education as a career is because I want all of my students to be able to accept and embrace their cultural identities, and I want them to acknowledge that knowing more than one language makes them that much more valuable. When I am not in the classroom, I enjoy reading, watching 90 Day Fiancé, or doing yoga!



Submitted by Melissa Saldana

SEE Project Updates



SEE mentee and Epsilon Kappa chapter member, Ashley Glidewell, with her new STEM products to use in her classroom makerspace

Marilyn Gregory delivering iPads and Osmo sets to one of her Guerrero Thompson SEE mentees Elizabeth Herrera. They were purchased using our DKG Educational Foundation grant funds.



Let Us Celebrate Your Awards, Achievements, and Recognitions

We want to acknowledge and celebrate your receipt of any significant awards, achievements, and recognitions during the past year. Let us know what they are so we can recognize you for your excellent work at the April Epsilon Kappa meeting! Please provide the information via email to Pam Kelly, Chair of the Membership Committee, at pammkelly@gmail.com, or mail it to her at 17115 Majestic Ridge Road, Austin, TX 78738

The **deadline** for submittal of this information is **March 15, 2019**.

Name _____

Awards Received May 2018 through March 2019:

Recognitions Received May 2018 through March 2019:

Achievements/Accomplishments May 2018 through March 2019:

International Conference July 17–20 in Costa Mesa, CA

DKG holds international conferences in the odd numbered years and this summer the International Conference in the southwest area is in Costa Mesa, California. As Southwest Regional Director, Marilyn Gregory is planning this conference which will be held July 17-20, 2019 with the theme - Technology. Speakers, workshops and takeaway presentations will center around technology but other topics will also be offered. Workshop presenters are needed and the application can be found on the international website under Costa Mesa, CA.

The Hilton Orange County is the main hotel and Southwest, United, American, Delta, and Frontier airlines fly into John Wayne Airport with the hotel van to transport members to and from the airport. Room reservations as well as the conference reservation will be open in mid-January. Sandi Causey will be contracted to do the registration and Deb Acevedo-Tamminga will be the music chair in charge of the choir. Plan to attend, learn about technology and support these Epsilon Kappa chapter members.

Go to the dkg.org website. Look for the International Conferences under Events on the main menu. The CA-Technology is our International Conference for the Southwest Region.

Submitted by Marilyn Gregory

ASTE F Giving Month

Join the ASTEF movement to give meaning and purpose. There is no better time to give than now. February has been proclaimed ASTEF Giving Month. Members are encouraged to make a tax-deductible contribution during this month and watch the ASTEF Giving Month thermometer rise!

Donations can be made by using the Donate Now Button or by sending your donation with the member contribution form found on the website to **Headquarters at PO BOX 797787; Dallas 75379-7787.**

Contributions to ASTEF may be made as memorials or honorariums and are tax exempt. Contributions will be applied to Projects unless specifically designated for Scholarships and/or Leadership.

All members of the Texas State Organization of Delta Kappa Gamma International are members of the Alpha State Texas Educational Foundation. Members are provided many opportunities to help support the activities of TSO and ASTEF.

<https://www.astef.org/donate-now.html>

ASTE F Needs Your Help

At the upcoming TSO convention in Arlington, we will be offering ten baskets in a traditional silent auction. To make this happen, we are asking members to donate a gift card valued at \$10 or more. These gift cards can be purchased from restaurants, retail stores, department stores, home improvement stores, garden centers, gas stations, Amazon, Apple or any other business thought useful to members.

Please send these cards to Lou Hitt, PO Box 1773, Decatur, TX 76234 by March 22, 2019. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Marian Clinton at Advancement@astef.org.

Thank you for your help in this endeavor. The proceeds will be used to fund scholarships, leadership and local projects that impact Texas educators, students and children in our local DKG communities.

Arlington Hosts the 90th TSO Convention

Dr. Jo Murphy and the members of Area 10 invite members to Arlington, Texas, "The City of Dreams," June 20 – 22, 2019. This will be the first Texas State Organization convention held in Arlington. Convention Website and Newsletters Now Available. <https://dkgtxasconvention2019.weebly.com/>

The 2019 Arlington Convention Steering Committee has released its first convention newsletter. It is available on the [convention website](#) under Resources. Members are encouraged to visit the convention website regularly as convention information will be added as it becomes available.





Newsletter Information

Please submit your articles and highlights for our next Chapter newsletter on or before Friday, Mar. 15th. You can send your submissions by email to Diane Sidoroff at diane.sidoroff@gmail.com or to Kathy Mihalik at kmihalik@airmail.net

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/>

Let's Celebrate!



Kathy Mihalik and husband Samuel with their first grandson



At our December meeting, Norma Jost installed Kathy Mihalik as our new 2018—2020 Epsilon Kappa President

Here is a list of birthdays to celebrate in February and March:

Glenda Bell	02 - 12	Phyllis Richards*	03 - 30
Ely Rodriguez	02 - 17	*Phyllis will be 99 this year	
Kitty Mellenbruch	03 - 17	Gracie Esquivel	03 - 30

