

# The Reporter

*The Delta Kappa  
Gamma Society  
International*

*Epsilon Kappa  
Chapter #130*

*Texas State  
Organization  
Austin, TX  
Area 7*

*Editor*

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**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:** YOU are the key

**Chapter Theme:** Women Educators ... inspire and be inspired

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## President's Message

Life is about change. It seems that the beginning of Autumn should mean cooler weather. As we struggle through this heat wave in Central Texas, we look forward to a change in our weather. We looked forward to the new school year, but there is always change there as well. You may be at a different school or assignment with a new group of students. How we manage change and new challenges helps us grow. As key women educators, we try to be flexible so we can adapt to changes in our personal lives and professional lives. We can do this because we have one another to rely upon for mental and moral support.

This organization was built by a group of strong women educators who shared their challenges as educators and built a vision of what could be. We all share their vision as we carry this organization forward. Because we come from diverse backgrounds, we work better together in this endeavor. That is what helps us in our personal and professional growth as women educators. Our Founders experienced profound changes throughout their lives, and while they built traditions, they also foresaw the need for flexibility. We have also experienced changes in education and we are constantly adapting to these changes.

This is where the Delta Kappa Gamma family fits into our lives. There are a lot of valuable lessons in our DKG past, and just possibly a map to our future endeavors. Our Educational Excellence Team has developed a survey to provide input for our chapter. Tell us the kinds of programs and activities that make a difference in your lives. What will help with your professional lives as educators? What kinds of skills or talents do you want to share? We learn from one another so please take the time to complete the survey. I am excited to see new possibilities.

Come to the October meeting and make new friends; also connect with old friends. In this meeting we are fortunate to have two new inductees, Principal Priscilla Sanchez Emamian of Cook Elementary and Assistant Principal Danielle Sanders of Galindo Elementary. Both are employees of the Austin Independent School District. Please join me in welcoming these two women into our membership. Let's look forward to our new year full of possibilities and engage in purposeful programs and projects.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Mihalik

## September Highlights

On September 7th, Mr. Yawn walked us through where we are now in terms of legislative action. The following are some key points that he mentioned:

- This legislature was completely different from past ones. For example, it was held before elections and there was a new speaker of the house that let people come forward with different issues without diverting them.
- The House bill issued has been the most comprehensive in 30 years. Even though it was a significant bill, it still has not replenished the 5 billion that they took in 2011.
- This House bill funded full pre-K in Texas for all students that qualify. The future of PK funding is still unpredictable. Mr. Yawn encouraged us to be persistent for it to continue to be funded.
- The law about taking away your teaching certificate if you do not pay your loans was revoked.
- Mr. Yawn also mentioned that there is a lot to be done. The Texas legislature needs to continue to fund TRS, but they also need to improve the retirement system for it to be actuarially sound.
- Next steps for us to take from now to Jan. 2021 are: let our representatives know what TRS still needs to continue to raise the base for insurance. Remind them that we need a permanent fix for TRS and that this is not a gift from the state to teachers. This is a promise by the Constitution and we as teachers have invested our lives and money into our retirement system. Our representatives should know that TRS hasn't had any influx of money since 1985. We should also thank the legislators that voted in 1986 for that influx of money. Then, we should focus on the issue of making TRS actuarially sound.
- Other issues that we want to mention and fight for are low cost/ low deductible insurance. We need to collaborate and work with our local TRTA to make this happen.



Mr. Yawn presenting the new current law issues that affect teachers.

Stay tuned for some information that Mr. Yawn will be sending us about 10 Texas Constitutional Amendments slated for November's ballot. You can find some information on the following link:

<https://www.statesman.com/news/20190529/10-texas-constitutional-amendments-slated-for-november-ballot>

Submitted by Luisa A. Hernandez

## S.E.E. Project Update

It has been a busy beginning of the 2019 - 2020 school year! Our Epsilon Kappa SEE committee is concentrating on four schools this year: Walnut Creek (12 mentees), Cook (4), Wooldridge (4), and Guerrero Thompson (5).

The last two weeks in September, we met our 5 new first-year educators and paired each of them with a mentor. We checked back in with our 20 returning 2nd, 3rd, and 4th year mentees. Newly purchased iPads with Osmo sets, along with "beginning of the school year" supplies — extra headphones, iPad cases, scotch tape, stickers, pencils, and other requested items — were delivered to our SEE classrooms.

The Epsilon Kappa SEE project is truly having a positive effect in the schools we serve. Since we began in 2010 to Support Early-career Educators — hence the name **SEE** — fewer than five of the teachers we have mentored have left the profession. This has been a very rewarding effort!

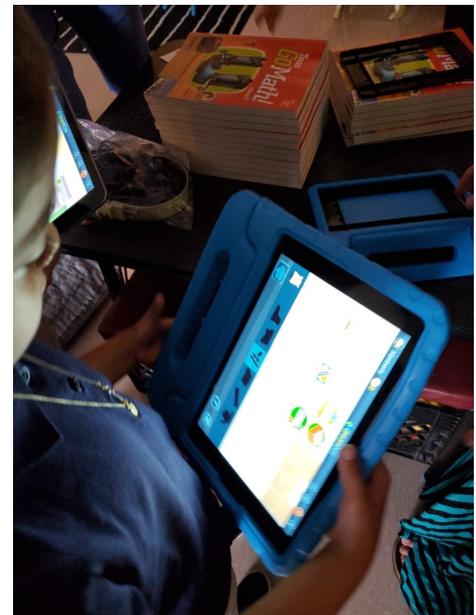
At our December chapter meeting you will get a chance to learn how teachers at Walnut Creek are using the iPads not only for Osmo but other websites. The teachers are excited about the chance to highlight how technology has invigorated their teaching. Please join us on Thursday, December 5 at 4:30 pm at Walnut Creek to see how our support has broadened educational opportunities in this Title 1 school.



Submitted by Bernadine Eaton and Marcia Kirkland



Cook Elementary "First Grade University"  
Epsilon Kappa S.E.E. mentees



New iPads



Osmos sets to go  
with iPads

## Book Lovers

*My Sister, the Serial Killer* by Oyinkan Braithwaite, is the next book our group will be discussing this fall. It is a dark satire about a Nigerian woman whose younger sister has inadvertently (?) already killed three boyfriends. The themes of cultural restraints and hidden family secrets are woven together to produce a very different look at what motivates women to protect themselves at all costs. A date for discussion has not been set but we will let everyone know soon.

Submitted by Bernadine Eaton



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## Supporting Our Foundations

Are you receiving a required IRA distribution that has to be reported as taxable income? You may be eligible to convert that distribution to a **qualified charitable distribution** that will benefit one or both of our DKG-related foundations and avoid paying income tax on it. Consider the following:

- A **qualified charitable distribution** is an otherwise taxable distribution from an IRA made to an organization eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions.
- The IRA must be owned by an individual who is age 70½ or older.
- The distribution must be paid directly by the trustee of the IRA to the qualified charity.
- The distribution may be split between two or more charities.

If you qualify and would like to take advantage of this opportunity, consult your financial advisor or the trustee of your IRA for more information and to complete the required paperwork.

For further information about **EPSILON KAPPA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**, contact Evelyn Barron at [ebarron106@aol.com](mailto:ebarron106@aol.com). For information about **ASTE F** (Alpha State Texas Educational Foundation), contact Leesa Cole at [tsotreas@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tsotreas@sbcglobal.net). This may be a win-win opportunity for both you and our foundations.

Submitted by Evelyn Barron



## Upcoming Meetings

**Tuesday, October 8th, 2019, 6:00 pm**

**Location:** Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Headquarters, 416 W. 12<sup>th</sup> St., Austin, TX

**Program:** Finding your "leadership direction" in Epsilon Kappa Chapter and DKG organization. New members will be inducted. We will celebrate and remember our chapter members.

**Speaker:** Dr. Jo Murphy, TSO State President 2017-2019

**Thursday, November 7th, 2019 5:30 pm**

**Location:** Pillow Elementary School, 3025 Crosscreek Dr, Austin, TX

**Program:** Moving STEM from the classroom to beyond reality. An interactive virtual reality program for all to enjoy and learn how to use this technology in your school.

**Presenter:** Cara Hamlin and Sarah Cable.

## October and November Programs Educational Excellence



On Tuesday, October 8th, we will be inducting new members into our chapter. Dr. Jo Murphy, past State President, will engage our chapter in an interactive conversation used in DKG's leadership training seminars. Please plan to join us as we celebrate and remember our chapter members.

Please join us on Thursday, November 7th, 2019 at 5:30 pm at Austin ISD's Pillow Elementary. Moving STEM from the classroom to beyond reality. This is an extension to our technology presentation last year. Cara Hamlin and Sarah Cable will present an interactive virtual reality program for all to enjoy and learn how to use this technology.



**Mark  
Your  
Calendar**



## Save the Dates 2019—2020

### **December 2019**

**Meeting:** Thursday, December 5, 2019 - 4:30 PM

**Location:** Walnut Creek Elementary School, AISD

### **January 2020**

Executive Board Meeting

### **February 2020**

**Meeting:** Saturday, February 1, 2020 - 11:00 AM

**Location:** Saltgrass Steakhouse, 10614 Research Blvd Austin, TX 78759

### **March 2020**

**Meeting:** Thursday, March 5, 2020 - 6:00 PM

**Location:** Home of Ann Lilie

### **April 2020**

**Meeting:** Saturday, April 4, 2020 - 9:30 AM

**Location:** Delta Kappa Gamma International Headquarters

### **May 2020**

**Meeting:** Saturday, May 2, 2020

**Location:** TBD

## Updates on State, National and International DKG activities

**McAllen, Texas is gearing up for the 91<sup>st</sup> State Convention.** The first issue of the Convention Keys newsletter has been posted on the Texas State Organizations website. <http://www.dkgtexas.org> Remember the dates Wednesday June 17 going through Friday evening June 19th. This allows you to be home for Father's Day or tour more of the Rio Grande Valley. Start to make plans for a special convention.

The Fall 2019 Lone Star News (digital copy) is available **now** for your convenience. Also, on the Texas State Organizations website. <http://www.dkgtexas.org>



**Do you know about the DKG Society U.S. Forum?** Angela Bedenbaugh sends out the US Forum Connection on the actions of Congress. Go to [usforumdkg.org](http://usforumdkg.org) to access the Connection.

Start thinking about attending the National Legislative Seminar in Arlington, VA. in March and be an advocate for issues that affect educators, women, and children.

## What is the Global Awareness Committee?

### Who does it serve? What does it include?

The TSO Global Awareness Committee is one of the Educational Excellence Committees. Its purpose is to promote the global projects, initiatives, and goals of DKG International. Those include Schools for Africa, World Fellowship, the United Nations involvement, and the Conference for Teaching About the United Nations (CTAUN). The Global Awareness Committee also strives to provide members with activities, programs, and projects that advance global awareness both in the chapter and in the classroom.



*globe art--Bing Creative Commons*

## International Projects

[International Project: Schools for Africa](#)

[Schools for Africa Website](#)

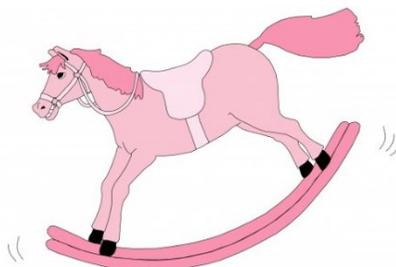
[CTAUN](#)

## Life Milestones

Luisa Hernandez welcomed a new baby girl, Alessa Hernandez Tillman. She was born September 13th at 6:15 pm. She weighed 7 pounds and was 19 inches long.



Alessa



## Member Spotlight

Dr. Glenda Ballard, Dean of the School of Human Development and Education at St. Edward's University, is a 40-year veteran of education. She graduated from Texas A&M University-Commerce (formerly East Texas State University that was originally an East Texas Normal School established to train educators) with a baccalaureate degree in English and a secondary teaching certification. After five years of teaching high school English and receiving a master's degree in Student Personnel and Guidance and a certification as a school counselor, she transitioned into teaching adults for Paris Junior College at Mt. Pleasant ISD where she taught GED preparation, Adult Basic Education, and English as a Second Language. Next, she moved to the community college classroom where she taught developmental education in writing, reading, mathematics, and study skills. Upon completing her doctorate in Adult and Continuing Education from Virginia Tech University, Dr. Ballard taught in an adult degree completion program for ten years and then moved into higher education administration. She served as Dean of Liberal Arts and Education for 8 years at Texas A&M University-Texarkana and is in her fourth year as dean at St. Edward's University.

Dr. Ballard loves seeing students complete their goals and walking across the stage. She also is proud that she has supported or contributed to the start-up of six new degree programs in her role as dean over the past 12 years.

Glenda has two children, Dr. Marlena Ballard-Coco, Research Analyst at Austin ISD, and Jordan Ballard, Senior Editor at the Office of the Governor in Austin, Texas. She loves walking Town Lake and listening to novels on Audible, traveling, and mentoring young professionals in their careers. She has been a member of Delta Kappa Gamma for almost ten years.

## Welcome to the new biennium

*Unlock the door to cooperative strategic planning through:*

*Knowledge of the Society's Mission, Purposes, and traditions.*

*Engagement in purposeful programs and projects to increase member involvement.*

*Yearlong involvement in recruiting, mentoring and leading.*

*Support from officers, mentors, and others to increase stronger members and chapters.*





## Epsilon Kappa Chapter The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

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

## Newsletter Information

Please submit your articles and highlights for our next Chapter newsletter on or before Friday, November 15. You can send your submissions by email to Diane Sidoroff at [diane.sidoroff@gmail.com](mailto:diane.sidoroff@gmail.com) or to Kathy Mihalik at [kmihalik@airmail.net](mailto: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!

## 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. Please let Pam Kelly, Membership Committee chair, know about any potential members.

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, the Texas State Organization, and Epsilon Kappa chapter.

## Let's Celebrate!

Here is a list of birthdays to celebrate in October and November:

|                      |       |                  |       |
|----------------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| Evelyn Barron        | 10-9  | Dorothy Baum     | 11-7  |
| Deb Acevedo-Tamminga | 10-12 | Evelyn Bollinger | 11-8  |
| Pam Kelly            | 10-14 | Bernadine Eaton  | 11-22 |
| Cathy Nitsch         | 10-28 | Hilda Diaz       | 11-29 |
| Charlene Zimmermann  | 10-30 | Debra Wissman    | 11-30 |

