

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: Sharing our Vision, Strengthening our Society

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

Chapter Theme: Empowering Educators for Excellence

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Summer 2014

President's Message

As I prepared the end of the year reports and reflected on how much our programs inform us of current educational trends, I was once again energized by our members wide interests. If any one ever wonders what is meant by being a life-long learner, just tell them all about our chapter's programs!

Not only are we updating our knowledge and use of smart devices, but we also have not forgotten the nurturing and personal aspects of teaching. At the very heart of what sustains an outstanding educator is her ability to connect with students and other professionals. The personal touch is a key quality of leadership. Epsilon Kappa's members truly demonstrate these core principals.

Methods of presenting lessons are continually changing because of factors beyond the school building. In the last session lawmakers combined the textbook and supplementary materials stipend but reduced the total amount paid to districts. Now only \$75 is allowed per student. That clarifies the reasons districts are buying texts with iPad links, or finding website resources and apps that open up a vast system for information retrieval. That leaves the dedicated teacher with the task of sorting out what is important and how to present the material. Education has become an exciting adventure.

One of the latest technologies to be utilized in the classroom is the 3-D printer. Even television dramas are incorporating them into story lines. Central Texas districts have noted that local business and higher education partners are seeking young people with 3-D printing skills. The widespread use of such devices may not be commonplace right now, but as educators we must prepare students for innovations that will be an asset in the job market.

I asked my 19 year old grandson if he had any experience with a 3-D printer. In a matter-of-

fact manner he said his high school engineering teacher had printed cubes for a class project. The machines are huge and very costly (\$30-40,000 each) so the class only watched. Even with that limited exposure, the students received an invaluable peek into the future.

As members of a world wide Society that seeks to stimulate our professional growth and to inform our membership of current educational issues, these technological trends will remain an important aspect of our world. Even with such dramatic shifts in what we teach, we can not forget the bonds of friendship that bring us together. Our chapter demonstrated great care when a member needed help after the fall floods. Then despite very harsh winter conditions we were able to support a struggling library in the Del Valle Child Development Center with a monetary gift and donations of a varied selection of books. It has been rewarding to have members present personal experiences such as a trip to Japan and to learn about our charter members. We clearly have built upon the leaders of the past but are forging a new base of leadership from all areas of the educational community. My time as president has been rewarding because of the support that each and every one of you have given me. I am humbled by the wealth of knowledge and expertise within this chapter. Whenever asked, people have pitched in to meet a goal or brought ideas to the group. Epsilon Kappa is the chapter that empowers its educators for excellence. Now as the transition begins into the next biennium, I know that Earin Martin will be able to forge ahead with her plans because all of us are key women educators.

With all respect for each and every member,

Bernadine



Reserve Your Spot Now to Visit Williamsburg in October

Register now for ASTEF's Road Scholar trip to **Colonial and Revolutionary Williamsburg, Jamestown, and Yorktown**, scheduled for **October 5-10, 2014**. TSO members, along with their friends and family, are invited to travel with Road Scholar, the leader in educational travel since 1975. Spend 5 nights in historic Williamsburg. Enjoy 6 expert-led lectures, 4 field trips, 4 performances, and 15 meals.

With Road Scholar you will travel alongside local and renowned experts, experience in-depth and behind-the-scenes learning opportunities, and have a delightful, fun experience with your learning, too.

To reserve your spot, call **800-322-5315** and ask to enroll in **Program # 2011THX**. Space is limited, and **August 1 is the deadline** for reservations (earlier if maximum capacity is reached before then). A \$100 deposit will reserve your spot; balance is due by August 5. Total cost of the trip (not including travel) is \$899 if you share with a roommate and \$1049 if you'd like a room by yourself.

If you have questions or would like additional information, contact Evelyn Barron, Sandi Causey, or Earin Martin; or go to www.alphastatetexas.org and download the descriptive flyer.



Richards Leadership Grant Awarded

The **EPSILON KAPPA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION** is pleased to announce that Kathy Mihalik has been awarded a Phyllis Richards Leadership Grant to attend the DKG International Convention in Indianapolis this summer.

Kathy is a new member of Epsilon Kappa, having been initiated in April 2014. She recently retired from TEA as Senior Director of Discretionary Grants. In this position she worked with Epsilon Kappa's incoming chapter president Dr. Earin Martin. Kathy has assumed the position of chapter webmaster and is already hard at work developing a new Epsilon Kappa website. She is looking forward to attending the international convention to learn more about DKG and to network with other Society webmasters.

Richards Leadership Grants are made possible because of a generous donation from our chapter's own Dr. Phyllis Richards. The grants provide financial support for chapter members wishing to attend DKG leadership events. Congratulations to Kathy, our newest Richards Grant recipient!



Membership Review

During the three month summer season there are many communication links to keep us all informed about chapter, state, and international news. There will be emails from both Bernadine Eaton as the outgoing president, and more from the incoming president, Dr. Earin Martin as we share news that comes from all sources. However, individuals can check all the websites and various social media connections. Our own Epsilon Kappa website will change when all the requirements are met to be certified and accepted by State and International. You will definitely hear about that exciting development as soon as possible. Check the TSO home page (alphastatetexas.org) often to read the news of the Lubbock convention and other pertinent reminders. On the international level (dkg.org) there seems to be daily news and updates. The home page features a banner that has current activities posted. Immediately under that, a moving list of announcements highlights important subjects. One line to explore is the Shop OneCause; you might want to consider using that link. In the features box, another way to support our organization is found at Shop AmazonSmile. Everyone should check that one out. The member center does have a very interesting part about Member Stories. Try that one for inspiration and pride in our history of outstanding women educators. At the bottom of the home page there are links to social media and mobile apps for iphone and android. The Facebook network is for members only. It is a safe environment for exchange of ideas, learning about important topics, and other tools. Try the twitter and YouTube links also. Four of the international staff have blogs which are interesting.

So whatever you are doing during the summer, stay in touch with all levels of the Society. There is always too much to share.

Looking for a Few Good Women Educators

While you are enjoying some time off and taking in all the summer opportunities for relaxation, think about colleagues, younger or more experienced, who would be interested in joining our chapter. Some of us will be talking with our mentees about what we do and the benefits they could use. But beyond the traditional classroom setting there may be a friend who does teaching in a very different setting. We may know someone who teaches in a private school, charter school, or does training for a business or even in a medical profession. Adult education is an area which we sometimes overlook as a recruiting ground. The woman who is passionate about sharing her knowledge with others and prepares engaging lessons/activities for others is an educator that we would love to include in our chapter. Be on the lookout for her and let the president know by the end of the summer so we can initiate her in October.

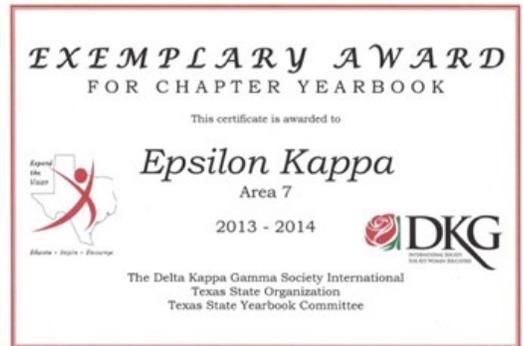
Epsilon Kappa Yearbook and Newsletter Receive Awards

Epsilon Kappa was recently notified that our chapter yearbook for 2013-2014 has received two awards from the TSO Yearbook Committee. The **Early Bird Award** recognizes yearbooks that were submitted to the committee by November 1, 2013.



The TSO Yearbook Committee provides comprehensive guidelines for yearbook content and organization. Members of the committee evaluate each yearbook that is submitted. Chapter yearbooks that include all of the required information and exhibit outstanding quality receive an **Exemplary Award**.

Chapter yearbooks are evaluated annually, and chapters receiving awards are recognized at the TSO convention. Epsilon Kappa continues a proud tradition of recognition for outstanding chapter publications.



Epsilon Kappa was also notified that our chapter newsletter for 2013-2014 has received a **Five Star Award** from the Communications and Publicity Committee.



JUNE 2014

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					

JULY 2014

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	31		

Looking Ahead

June 19 - 21 - 85th TSO Convention in Lubbock, TX

June 30 - July 11- Leadership Management Seminar at UT and International Headquarters

July 23 - 26 - Seminar in Purposeful Living in Fort Wayne, IN

July 28 - Aug. 1 - International Convention in Indianapolis, IN

September 8 - First Chapter meeting of new biennium at Akins High School 6:00pm, 10701 South First St.

Sept. 13 - Area 7 Workshop at Elgin High School at 9:00



(On left) Kim Thonhoff and Cindy Fonseca

(On right) Andrea Ramirez, Nancy Alaniz, Bernadine Eaton, Mary Louise Poolman, Diane Sidoroff



Mentee



Mixer

(On left) Bernadine Eaton, Cindy Fonseca, Diane Sidoroff, Marcia Kirkland

(On right) Elizabeth Newell and Evelyn Barron



More than a Mentee

Three years ago I responded with a “yes” to the request to become a mentor through what is now called the SEE Project that is funded through our Epsilon Kappa Educational Foundation. I have yet to regret that “yes” response for it has opened a door to an amazing and quite heartwarming journey.

My assigned mentee, Cindy Fonseca, teaches in a bilingual Pre-K (4 year olds) classroom at Langford Elementary. Initially, I was a little concerned about this relationship since I speak absolutely no Spanish. However, when I was introduced to Cindy on that first day many years ago, I saw a light in her eyes that just transcended all anxieties. Cindy was willing, eager, and had a heartwarming desire to absorb whatever assistance was offered. I will tell you that the time spent with her in her classroom, on the phone and through emails communications has just been delightful. When I decided to embark upon this journey, I never really expected to receive such a “gift of grace and passion” in my retired years. We have transitioned from simple greetings to very rich experiences together. I have been blessed with a precious and cherished friendship.

In our first year together, our conversations were mainly focused on classroom management suggestions. After each visit or each conversation, I would return to Cindy’s classroom and see the suggested course of action in motion. She just willingly grasped onto the ideas shared and implemented them with enthusiasm. Because of her zealous efforts, I really looked forward to providing continued encouragement and anticipated effective results with each visit. I eventually found myself addicted to the mentorship. In our second year, I began to interact with her students and to model teaching techniques during small group instructional time, story time, and math lessons. (Math was only done in English so it was the best fit for my language skills.) Once again, Cindy utilized techniques and information well. I began to see a gradual transformation in her teaching demeanor. She grew from a quiet insecurity into a beautiful confidence that still astounds me. She deeply touched her families with her compassionate joy and her very inviting class atmosphere confirmed to all who entered that LOVE resided in her realm. This past year I have observed so much growth that Cindy has become like a teaching colleague to me. We can exchange ideas and converse about teaching matters on leveled plains. If I were still teaching and could choose a teaching partner, Cindy would rank high on my list of preferences.

I know that much of the success in this mentee-mentor relationship is based on Cindy’s yearning to become a teacher of excellence. She has capitalized on the support offered to her not only through this mentorship but also through the encouragement of many other professionals who have supported her career in AISD. Cindy has a very positive attitude and radiates joy in her chosen career. It has been so inspiring to cross paths with such strength and compassion in this new generation of teachers. Though this mentorship was intended for me to “gift” Cindy with support, she has actually “gifted” me with a renewed faith that our children are really being nurtured with great care. I encourage each chapter member to give themselves an opportunity to nurture a relationship with a future educator through our SEE Project. The journey has been a worthwhile and rewarding experience! Thank you, Cindy, for sharing your early career moments with us!

Kim Thonhoff

From Mentor to a Good Friend

When I was asked to join the Epsilon Kappa Educational Foundation I was hesitant because I had several mentors due to the fact that I started teaching through an Alternative Certification Program (ACP). I already had one mentor on campus, one through the ACP and one through the Early Childhood Department. I had people walk into my classroom several times a week, sometimes even more than once a day. So when I heard about this new mentor and mentee program I thought to myself, “another mentor?” “Do I really need another mentor?” I received an email twice asking me to join, but I wasn’t sure if I really wanted to join and even the assistant principal came into my classroom and told me that I should join. That’s when I decided that I would join. I responded to the email from Marcia Kirkland and shortly after that I received a phone call from Kim Thonhoff, and we decided that we would meet sometime after school. It was such a pleasant conversation. I finally had a chance to speak to someone that really understood what I was going through. As a first year teacher, it was so difficult for me to keep up with all my responsibilities, deadlines, teaching, assessments, etc. that I would try to tell my friends and family about it, but no one could really understand, but Kim. Not only was she there to listen, she also taught me how to have a better classroom management, she taught me how to get more work done in less time, she modeled for me how to do a read aloud, she also modeled how to teach math, etc. She would also come every once in a while to work with my classroom in a large group, small group, etc. so I could learn how to become an effective teacher and also so I could have more time to assess my students. Kim would always listen to what I would have to say, she would always send an email, text or call me to give me encouragement. She would show up when I needed her the most, with books for my classroom and a card with inspirational words. I am tremendously gracious to the Epsilon Kappa Educational Foundation. I am so glad the assistant principal came to my classroom and asked me to join and I am so glad I did join... last, but not least I am thankful for Kim, she has been a blessing to me. She became more than my mentor, she became my friend.

Cindy Fonseca (Mentee)



Mentees in Action

Cindy Fonseca purchased books for her classroom with her SEE grant.

Amber Ham using the tennis balls that the chapter collected for her chairs.



Let's Celebrate!

Here is a list of birthdays to celebrate in June and July:



Lisa Robertson	06-01	Colleen Arnold	07-01
Judy Wallace	06-06	Dr Earin Martin	07-06
Linda Shaw Holt	06-10	Judy P Rice	07-11
Charlotte Brown	06-13	Mary Ortiz-Boland	07-13
Anita Brewer Howard	06-17	Carmen Ferrer-McCluskey	07-15
Margaret Wallace	06-18	Marion Coffee-Carney	07-16
Kathy Dixon	06-24	Diane Sidoroff	07-19
Kim Thonhoff	06-24	Stephanie Israel	07-22
Cara Hamlin	06-30	Diane Dolezel	07-25
		Christy J. Barrett	07-27



**Epsilon Kappa Chapter
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society
International**

Diane Sidoroff
901 Creekbend Drive
Pflugerville, TX 78660

"If you have any changes in your name, home address, school address, phones numbers , e-mail address or what you are teaching, would you please send the changes to Jo Watts, kwatts7@austin.rr.com or Evelyn Barron, EBarron106@aol.com"

Newsletter Information

Please submit your articles and highlights for our next Chapter newsletter on or before Friday, July, 19. You can send your submissions by email to Diane Sidoroff at diane.sidoroff@gmail.com or to Bernadine Eaton at bme3770@yahoo.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!

We Want To Know

We want to know....

what awards, degrees, certifications, promotions, publications, etc. have you achieved this year?

We want to know... so we can celebrate your accomplishments!

Please send your information to Marilyn Gregory through the summer and we will recognize you at our first meeting in the fall.

Name _____

Description of recognition, accomplishment and award received over the last year. You can include more than one!!! (Please print or type)

Send all forms to Marilyn Gregory, 11508 Quarter Horse Trail, Austin, Texas 78750 or email her at: teachkind2@aol.com.