

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Alpha Kappa - Florida

Mission Statement

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.

Newsletter March - May, 2024

Prepared by Connie Lewis

Website: <http://www.deltakappagamma.org/FL-alphakappa/Events.html>

Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/DKGFLAlphaKappa/?locale=fy_NL

President's Message – Monica Hayes



Dear Sisters,

Connie Lewis has done it again! Thanks to the work of several of our sisters. The newsletter is once again chock full of interesting facts and information, Kudos to the wonderful sisters who gave time, wisdom, great stories, food, and energy during our recent visit with the Lundquist House Scholars.

I know all of us are busy. Our passions are daunting and require time, interest, and energy. The work of an historic and international association of female educators requires no less. We, the more seasoned sisters, have been thinking about sustainability. We have one of the largest chapters, on paper, in Florida. Many of our sisters are retired, and they support our efforts financially, but are no longer able to give their time.

There's more we can do to serve our communities and their educators, but we need your help to encourage and invite new candidates. You know the adage about many hands...Our featured sisters are great role models for all of us. Stacy Thompson will become our president on July 1st this year. Please, let's make sure she has the honor of welcoming several new sisters to our chapter.

Hugs to you all.



Upcoming Events

- **March 26, 2024, 5:30 - 7:45 p.m., speaker Chris Green with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (His job is under the CS.), Topic is on Avoiding Scams, Northeast Library Branch, Thomasville Road**
- **April, 2024, Time and Date TBA, Disaster Preparedness, Leon County EOC**
- **May 11, 2024, Founders' Day, Place TBA.**
- **June 16-19, 2024, Leadership Seminar, Orlando Marriot Lake Mary, registration details in Florida Rays (attached)**
- **September 20-21, 2024, Florida DKG Fall Workshop, Orlando Marriott Lake Mary, (registration and workshop forms in Florida Rays (attached)**

Dr. Michelle Gayle Serves as the Deputy Superintendent of Leon County Schools

As the Deputy Superintendent of [Professional, Intervention, and Community Services](#), Dr. Gayle oversees School Board Administration, Intervention Services (Attendance, Foster Care, Families in Transition), Office of Admissions, Charter School, Homeschool, School Choice, Health Services, Mental Health Services, Marketing, Volunteers & Mentors, Community Partners, District Advisory Council (DAC), Student District Advisory Council (SDAC), and the Foundation for Leon County Schools. (From the Office of Stacey Turknett, Executive Assistant, Leon County Schools)



Amal Ibourk Receives Promotion at FSU



Amal Ibourk received a letter from the office of FSU President Richard D. McCullough, Ph.D. announcing her promotion to Associate Professor and granting her tenure at FSU on August 6, 2024. She is in the School of Teacher Education, College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences.

In addition, on the same day, Amal received notice from The FSU Provost's Office that she was nominated by her students for a Teaching Award in the category – Outstanding Teaching in the Major.

FAMU Announces Allyson Watson as Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs

Florida A&M University President Larry Robinson, Ph.D., has announced Allyson L. Watson, Ph.D., as provost/vice president for Academic Affairs. Watson, who came to FAMU in 2019 as dean of the College of Education, has served as interim provost/vice president for Academic Affairs since December 2022. Dr. Watson has had an outstanding career as an academic administrator prior to joining FAMU and continued to demonstrate leadership and vision as dean of our College of Education. "I have been extremely impressed with her performance over the past several months as the interim provost," said Robinson. "She has demonstrated a commitment to student success, shared governance, and support of faculty and staff. She continues to lead important funded research initiatives and community service activities that support our mission. I look forward to future successes from an individual who already has proven to be a stellar hire for FAMU."

"Florida A&M University is an institution of academic excellence. I am honored to represent the significance of our history and the academic contributions we have accomplished and be at the helm of such an important time for our future," Watson said. "Our future is bright, and I look forward to leading with vision, tenacity, and innovation."

As a scholar, Watson has focused her research on innovation in education, STEM in urban education, women, and faculty of color in higher education, and urban school and university partnerships. She is a full professor and tenured graduate faculty with substantial teaching and research experience in educational research, advanced educational measurements and statistics, public school relations, and instructional strategies.

Provost Watson spent more than 20 years teaching and leading in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Her work in north Tulsa shaped her passion for encouraging teachers to include accurate history within culturally responsive pedagogy. (Information from the Office of the President)



**Alpha Kappa is so proud of these members. They are indeed “key women educators”.
President and Writer??**



Stacy Thompson, our President-Elect is a lucky winner. She won one of the gift boxes/baskets at the District I Meeting. It is full of information about “You can be a Writer!” Can’t wait for her first book! She can develop a new hobby, in her spare time, while balancing it with becoming Alpha Kappa’s new president July 1, 2024! Oh, and remember she manages the library as the media specialist at Montford Middle School, along with her other responsibilities.



Congratulations on winning the basket and becoming our next president. We know you will do a wonderful job!



Membership Recruitment



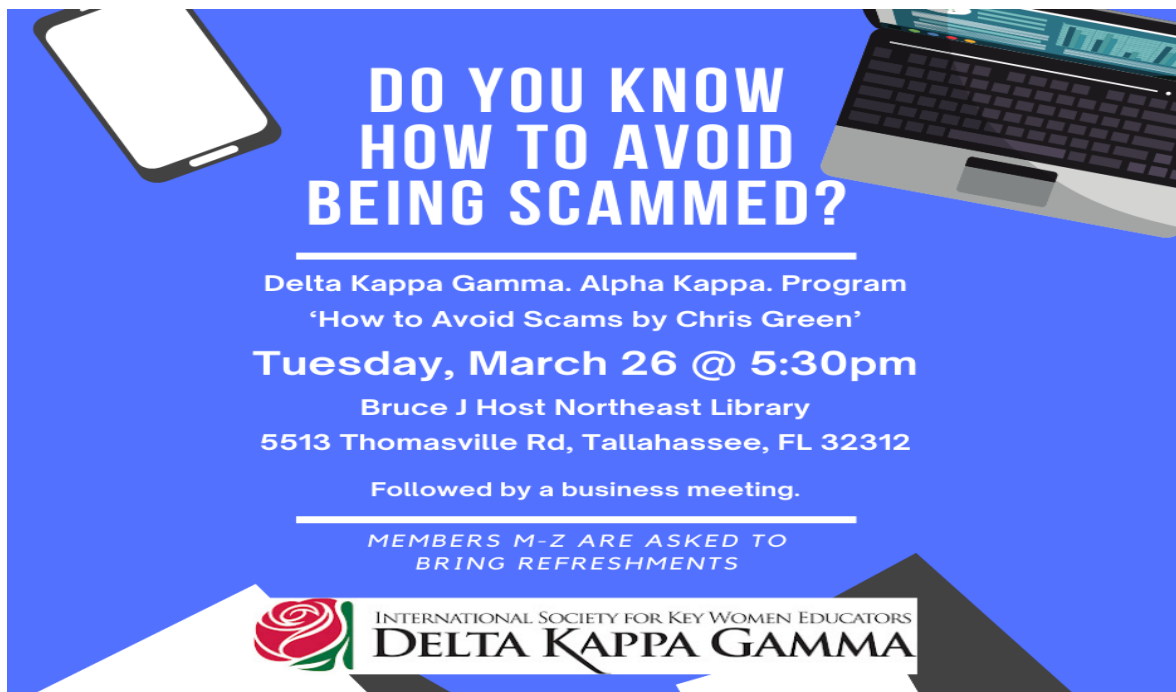
Time to RECRUIT New Members to Alpha Kappa

It’s not too early to think about inviting women to join Alpha Kappa, DKG! You are a key woman educator. You know bright, talented, teachers and others in education who have leadership skills. It is time to invite *exceptional educational leaders* to join us.

Please remember the inspiring young, seasoned, and retired teachers and administrators you know, who could benefit from associating with Alpha Kappa members. Our members can mentor them, and provide opportunities to enrich and enhance their experience in education. Look for someone you feel can enrich Alpha Kappa and remember to mention the vast advantages of joining DKG.

Contact Lisa Phillips at daniki13@gmail.com . Your candidate will be required to complete a form provided by the chapter.

Program Announcement – Be There!




**DO YOU KNOW
HOW TO AVOID
BEING SCAMMED?**

Delta Kappa Gamma. Alpha Kappa. Program
'How to Avoid Scams by Chris Green'

Tuesday, March 26 @ 5:30pm
Bruce J Host Northeast Library
5513 Thomasville Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32312

Followed by a business meeting.

MEMBERS M-Z ARE ASKED TO
BRING REFRESHMENTS

 INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA

Lundquist House Visit - Nancy Watson

Eleven members visited the Lundquist Residents for a social visit and great foods provided by our members. The Lundquist residents each introduced themselves and told us about their academic goals and a little about themselves. In turn each of the Alpha Kappa members talked about their educational experiences and degrees. During lunch we had an opportunity to interact with the residents and get to know them on a one-to-one basis. They truly enjoy our visits and we were asked "When will you be back again."

Some of the residents will be looking for a mentor. It is the hope of our chapter that more of you will become involved in this endeavor. Often, they just need advice or someone to discuss their thoughts for the future as they move forward with their education. If called on, we hope you will support them. Please let Nancy Watson, watsonnh@gmail.com, know if you are interested in participating.

Cudos to Nancy Watson for planning and organizing these events. Over the last 8 years we have been the "Champions" for residents of the Lundquist House. This is a major task - coordinating with the house liaison, arranging for the foods, and determining the house and residents needs with which we can assist. We also work to educate AK members about how we can reduce the financial burden of these scholarship recipients who have demonstrated high GPA's but also have economic needs. AK assists by reducing their living expenses. We could not do this without Nancy. She really appreciates the Southern Scholarship Foundation as, once upon a time, she was a resident of a SSF house.

You can support this project, through donations of pantry staples and cleaning supplies that reduce the residents' housing costs. Go to <https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/24FVTC3RMAEYL> and/or see the list on our website at <http://www.deltakappagamma.org/FL-alphakappa/Events.html> under chapter events, Lundquist House, other items here. Click here on the website to see the list of supplies they need during the year. After you have purchased items, please remember to send a copy of your receipts to Patte Casey, our treasurer, at pcasey@fsu.edu .



Below: Pictures from the event. . .the members of the house, our members listening as the they talk about their goals, and Josephine Sondossi talking about her educational pursuits.



Comments from our Members after Visit

We had a great time this afternoon with the residents at the Lundquist house. I'm so thankful for the sisters who came out to support these young women. We share common interests, hopes, and dreams. It was a joyous afternoon, beautiful weather, lots of food and goodies, and great, great conversations. They seemed genuinely interested in our wisdom and expertise, and were appreciative of our genuine interest in them. I can't wait till the next one. Kudos and thanks to Stacy Thompson who couldn't make it but sent a fantabulous tray of a cookie/brownie comb. Monica Hayes

What a wonderful time we had today. The ladies are just as beautiful, smart and vivacious as ever. Jemima and I had a great conversation and she even walked with me to the baseball game. How fun is that! Thanks to Nancy Watson for organizing this event. Nancy Henning



List of Legislative Bills - You can Help

Thank you to Jan Bennett, president of Beta Phi, for sending the list of legislative bills that are relevant to education. It is important that we are aware of the bills and contact our representatives express our concerns about and/or support for a bill. These bills influence the future of our youth and the effectiveness of our teachers. The bills are listed on our website page at <http://www.deltakappagamma.org/FL-alpha-kappa/Events.html> under announcements. Just click the "here" link to view. Alpha Kappa is looking for a representative who will keep the chapter members informed of the latest legislative issues regarding education in Florida. If you are interested, please let Connie Lewis know at lewisc47@comcast.net. You do not have to have had prior experience in the area as support will be provided for you.