

ALPHA KAPPA NEWSLETTER

June, 2017

Prepared by Connie Lewis

Visibility through Member Involvement



Member Applause – Elmira Davis

Dr. Elmira P. Davis, an active member of Delta Kappa Gamma, was recently recognized by the Tallahassee Democrat Board as one of the **25 Women You Need To Know** in 2017. Her



community advocacy, tenacity and leadership skills were highlighted in a full feature article and on-line interview during Women's History Month.

Dr. Davis, a licensed-certified speech pathologist and CEO of Davis Communications Consultants, LLC, has published three inspirational books.

Within the last year alone, she has donated over 200 of her books to at-risk teenagers, homeless women, single women, unwed mothers, domestic violence victims and others attending her seminars, conferences and empowerment groups. She miraculously balances these community efforts with her responsibility of caring for a developmentally disabled and medically fragile daughter.

Dr. Davis also serves as founding pastor of the local New Destiny Church and is currently overseeing the construction of a brand-new sanctuary.

She is a sought after and passionate motivational speaker, who reaches out to the often forgotten segments of our community and encourages them step-by-step to embrace their inner worth and God-given potential!

Five Big Bend Chapter Legislative Meeting, Feb. 18, 2017 was held at Westminster Oaks Club House to plan participation in "Rally in Tally" an opportunity for Mu State members to interact with Educational Legislators. Members from around the State met on March 14 in Tallahassee to review the issues and talking points to be presented. March 15 participants met with Education Budget Appropriations Committee members at the Senate Building. The delegation discussed current legislation as it relates to quality education.

Mu State Spring Convention was held April 28-29, 2017. There were 232 participants in attendance. Mu State does things up right. It was a lovely event! Sandra Smith Bull, DKG International Executive Director, was the keynote speaker.



We have a lot to be proud of in District 1 and Mu State. Alpha Kappa was presented the **Communication Award** at the Mu State Convention luncheon on April 29 at the Lake Mary Marriott, Orlando. There were only two awards given to chapters in District 1.

Thanks to Gale for accepting the award on behalf of the chapter. Alpha Kappa was represented by our Vice President, Gale Workman and Monica Hayes.

Note: The seal is on the Alpha Kappa Gamma website and may be used by AK members in correspondence.

Tallahassee Christian College and Training Center (TCCTC), March 23, 2017 – JoAnne Arnett, President of TCCTC and an AK member, awarded the 2nd ever “Faith and Profession Award” to Major B. Harding, former Florida Supreme Court Justice.



Tallahassee Senior Center Awards Silver Stars, May 14, 2017.

Congratulation to Rhonda Work, our AK Treasurer. She is celebrated among the Annual Silver Stars this year in recognition of those who exemplify active aging and make positive contributions to our community.

Dr. Rhonda S. Work had a successful and meaningful career as a speech pathologist, and then 22 years ago made the momentous decision to retire.

“I took two months to do nothing. Then I said, this is not my life. I began volunteering at the Junior Museum – and from there, it all blossomed,” Rhonda recalls.

Blossomed, it did. Aside from her occasional forays into Burmese python rescuing and African safari-ing, Rhonda actively volunteers with a wide range of local organizations, including the Tallahassee Museum of History and Natural Science, St. Francis Wildlife Association, St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, LeMoyne Art Foundation, Tai Chi Society, Delta Gamma Honor Society for Women Educators, Trinity United Methodist Church, and the FSU Coastal and Marine Lab.



At the moment, Rhonda's favorite activity is her involvement with the FSU Coastal and Marine Lab. "It's new, so it's a challenge," she says with an adventurous twinkle in her eye. When she isn't volunteering, doing Tai Chi, singing in her church choir, reading, or taking care of her two cats and dog, she is traveling.

Rhonda fondly recalls annual summer vacations with her family throughout her childhood, which spurred her love for travel. So far she has traveled six of the seven continents. Her favorite destinations are "wild" places like the Amazon, the forests of Costa Rica, the vast expanses of Alaska, and countless national parks within the United States. But above all, her "love" is Africa, so it's no surprise she has been on seven African safaris – with no plans to stop anytime soon.

For Rhonda, the key to graceful aging is staying socially, mentally, and physically active and surrounding yourself with a wide circle of friends. Rhonda added, "You know what they say: faith, family, and friends are the key to a fulfilled life," she says, "and for me, it really is true.

Planning Ahead - District 1 Conference hosted in Tallahassee, March 2-3, 2018

Yes ... it's nearly one year away, but heads up on some planning items for AK and the District I meeting in Tallahassee. Donna Heald, our District Director, is planning ahead with some preliminary thoughts. She is planning to reserve Leon High School as the venue.

AK in charge of staffing the registration table/Rhonda all advance registration/database and handling of checks.

- Each chapter has been asked to suggest workshops that would entice members to travel to Tallahassee for the day. One suggestion is a two-hour hands-on workshop to teach chapters how to post their websites at DKG.org. Seems AK is a leader in this endeavor. Thank you, Connie! You are the best.
- Each chapter will be asked to display a tri-fold poster board (like science or history fair projects) summarizing our chapter's activities for past year -- photos, art, text.
- Each chapter will donate a gift basket for the raffle.
- Ideas for Breakout Sessions/Workshops are being requested as well as presenters for these sessions.
- There was some discussion about tying the Capitol/Legislators into the District Meeting, as this is so much a part of Tallahassee. Note: Legislative Session begins March 6, 2018, unless they vote to change it for next year. So DKG's District meeting is the weekend before Session starts on Tuesday.

Please send all suggestions to Donna Heald at dhealdfl@aol.com

Ongoing Events

Lundquist Scholarship House – Continue to gather non-perishable items for the scholarship house. The next collection will be at our summer luncheon.

Early Learning Coalition – “My First Books Program” We will bring books to donate at our Fall Workshop.

Upcoming Chapter Events

- June 17, 2017, 1:30 -3:30 p.m. Chapter Board Meeting, Rhonda Work’s home
- July 2017, 11:00 a.m. Summer Social, TBA
- October 7, 2017 Joint New Member Orientation
- October 28, 2017 Joint Initiation
- March 2-3 2018, District I Meeting, Tallahassee, FL

Communications

- Send members' notices to Susan Womble for distribution. alphakappatally@gmail.com
- Send website notices to Connie Lewis. lewisc47@comcast.net
- Chapter Website - <http://www.deltakappagamma.org/FL-alphakappa/>
- Chapter Facebook Page - <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Alpha-Kappa-Delta-Kappa-Gamma-International/412913988756695>
- Mu State Website -<http://dkgmstateflorida.weebly.com/>
- Mu State Facebook Page - <https://www.facebook.com/DKGFlorida/>
- International Website - <http://www.dkg.org/>
- International Facebook Page - <https://www.facebook.com/dkgorg>
- International on Twitter: [@DKGMuStateFL](https://twitter.com/DKGMuStateFL)

Geri Hatcher, Mu State President, encouraged all of us to involve each of our members in creating strong chapters, which will make our Society strong internationally. She reminded us that

“People support what they help to create.”



Alpha Kappa is well on its way to achieving this goal. Congratulations to all members of the chapter!