

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 – June/July - 2021

Prepared by Connie Lewis

A K Website <http://www.deltakappagamma.org/FL-alphakappa/>

President's Message – Nancy Rosenbaum

The past few months have FLOWN by! In April, the DKG Florida State Organization held the spring convention in Lake Mary, Florida. The event was a HUGE success of both in-person and virtual participants. Those of us who participated via Zoom, felt like we were right there with our sisters in Lake Mary. There was such an excellent assortment of sessions to participate in that it was difficult to choose which ones to follow! Here are a few highlights of the convention:



- The first night of convention brought awards and scholarships. It also was a time of remembrance for sisters who have been lost in the past two years. Our chapter has lost three sisters during the 2019-2021 biennium. I encourage you each to take a few moments to remember our Alpha Kappa sisters: Ann Black, Kitty Hoffman, and Rita Ann Johnson.
- I participated in a session about The Eagle-Orzeł Educational and Cultural Exchange, an organization dedicated to creating and facilitating educational and cultural exchanges between the United States and Poland. Its mission is grounded in the conviction that interactions between and among American and Polish teachers, artists, and students offer mutually beneficial and enriching experiences. Each summer they invite educators to participate in short-term teaching experiences, professional development, and partnerships between American and Polish classrooms. If this sounds like something that you would be interested in learning more about, please let me know!
- The second session I participated in was hosted by World Fellowship Recipient, Saniya Ashraf, from Pakistan. Saniya shared her life experiences and what brought her to the United States to study at Florida State University. She speaks with confidence, humor, and grace. Since convention, I have been in contact with her. She shared that she would have loved to meet with all of us, but was leaving the United States in May.
- During the convention luncheon, new state officers were installed for the new biennium. Starting July 1, Roxanne Burger will be our new DKG Florida State Organization President. She shared with us three of her goals for the new biennium. Please

start thinking about these goals and consider how you can become more involved! Her goals for 2021-2023 are as follows:

- Every member is encouraged to read the “Florida Rays”.
- Since we are now experts on ZOOM, we want the committees to meet and the district directors to meet with their chapter presidents regularly, at least once every two months.
- Every chapter is to adopt a first-year teacher. This is in accordance with the International initiative SEE – Support for Early Career Educators.

I want to take this opportunity to also acknowledge women leaders in our chapter who have served DKG above and beyond at the State level. We extend a BIG thank you to these sisters!

- **Nancy Henning** has served as our state president this last biennium. I am certain that she had no idea that her presidency would bring with it a global pandemic where sisters could not engage in regular meetings and rituals. However, she remained an inspiring force, ensuring that all chapters around the state continued constant communication. Additionally, she orchestrated a virtual Fall Workshop and a hybrid Spring Convention. Her leadership was instrumental in ensuring our sisterhood remained strong in crisis.
- During the 2019-2021 biennium, **Rhonda Work** has served as our Alpha Kappa treasurer, the District I registrar (2019), the BBCC treasurer, AND the State Meeting Registrar/Treasurer. Rhonda was responsible for collection of registrations for the District 1 meeting and all the state meetings that have occurred in the past two years in addition to her responsibilities to Alpha Kappa and the BBCC. It is impressive how she juggles it all and still has time to provide guidance in any needed capacity.
- Our Florida DKG Communications Committee would not have been complete without **Nancy Watson!** During this biennium, the committee had to work to change guidelines for the Communication Award. Nancy assisted with ensuring District I was well aware of the changes made, which helped us to be more prepared in submitting our AK application!
- **Connie Lewis** is so dedicated to our Alpha Kappa communication that we have received the DKG Florida State Organization Award AGAIN this biennium. With COVID-19, communication has been more important than ever. She has meticulously maintained our chapter website ([click above to check it out, and be sure to bookmark the link](#)). She gathers and organizes interesting information for our bi-monthly newsletters, and rises to the occasion any time there is a need.

Our BBCC Founders Day Zoom Celebration was the culminating event of the year. It was wonderful to see so many Alpha Kappa faces present on Zoom! Rhonda Work and Connie Lewis assisted us in an inspirational program by having a table displaying the founding members for us to see. As each founding member was announced, a photograph was displayed and a rose was put in a vase in their honor. Two young women were announced as the 2021 Grant-in-Aid Scholarship recipients, one a student from FAMU and the other a student from Flagler College. We also had the opportunity to hear Senator Lorraine Ausley speak as she was recognized by the DKG Florida State Organization for a Legislative Award. Our District I Director, Ann Comforter also recognized the work of members who contributed at the state level. Kitty Hoffman’s life was

celebrated during the necrology portion of the program and we observed a moment of silence in remembrance of her. If you missed this celebration, please feel free to view the Zoom recording by [CLICKING HERE](#). It was truly a beautiful event!

It is our hope that, with COVID, circumstances will continue to change for the better. This summer you will receive surveys on a variety of topics. One will help us to plan our summer luncheon and will gauge our chapter's readiness to attempt an in-person meeting, possibly one where we each bring our own meal and can distance ourselves safely. A second survey will be sent to gather ideas for the upcoming year so we can begin working on projects and programs that suit the needs and desires of our membership. I ask that you reflect on both of these and be honest in your input. If you have ideas to share or would like to become more involved, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly.

To those of you who have been teaching or working this school year, **WE MADE IT!** Even if you are continuing to work throughout the summer, I hope it is a time for things to slow down a little. We all need to take some time for ourselves to relax and have FUN! I hope you all have a wonderful summer!

State President's Message – Nancy Henning

As I write this article, I am reflecting on our Convention for this biennium. What changes we had to make in order for us to have this event! With the help of many we were able to give recognition to members and friends for accomplishments, remember members who have passed, conduct our business and, for a smaller number than usual, meet in person - laying our eyes on one another and socializing. We had our first hybrid meeting, meeting in person and also offering those unable to attend to "meet" electronically. Were there challenges? Of course, but we were able to circumvent those and provide a meeting Annie Webb Blanton would be proud of.

Our Awards Program Friday night saw recognitions of members and chapters who go above and beyond to achieve honors such as Hall of Fame, Star of the Southeast and Sarah B. Ferguson Award. You can find all the recipients on our website. The Ceremony of Remembrance focused on our members that have passed during this biennium and was one of the most touching ceremonies we have had that I can remember. Saturday provided a meeting in which we passed changes to our state bylaws, adopted a budget for next biennium and voted in our next set of officers for 2021-2023. Members had a choice of eight workshops from which to choose two. Our day concluded with a fabulous luncheon during which we installed our newly elected officers. I thank all who attended either in person or electronically. You have made history.



We now must move forward to summer. I encourage you to have your chapters meet to stay in touch and plan your good works and meetings for the fall. Doing the planning now will allow you to start off in August at full

force. Don't stop the search for ladies who are deserving of membership, they are everywhere you are. I hope to see you in San Antonio for our International Conference July 21-24. Check the International website for details.
(Note: Picture taken at State Convention, 2021)



Roses to all,
Nancy Henning
State Organization President 2019-2021

We Recognize Rhonda Work for her Services to AK & DKG

Over the sixty years that I have been a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, I have had the privilege to serve in a variety of positions, but there has been a common thread throughout the years, one that relates to money matters. Since 2000 I have been treasurer of Alpha Kappa Chapter and financial manager of the Big Bend Coordinating Council (BBCC).

During that same period, I served at the request of three district directors (Nancy Henning, Sandy Byars, Donna Heald) as registrar/treasurer for their District I meetings. When Nancy Henning, the newly elected state president, called and asked me to be registrar/treasurer for the state meetings during her biennium, it seemed like a natural progression. But it was more than that – it was a big leap from small district meetings to very large state meetings. The biennium would cover two fall board meetings (2019 and 2020) and the 2021 spring convention. In preparation for the 2019 fall board meeting, I learned to use a spread sheet, maintain extensive records on the registrants, and manage the checking account. Thanks to a wonderful group of sisters from the BBCC, the preparation of 317 name tags was made easy. Then it was off to Lake Mary to staff the registration desk for the duration of the meeting.



This routine would have been repeated in fall of 2020, but COVID-19 interfered and no in-person meeting was held. The state executive board determined that the 2021 spring convention would be a combination of in-person meetings and ZOOM sessions. This required a modified approach to record keeping which served as another learning experience. That is the beauty of service to Delta Kappa Gamma, it is always a learning experience that helps you grow as an individual.

It was my honor and pleasure to serve the Society in this latest position. I learned so very much and met so many wonderful ladies which just reinforced my respect and love for DKG. When opportunity comes your way, grab it, learn and grow, and cherish the friendships that you discover.

It's Dues Time!

It is that time of the year. We begin dues collection for the 2021-2022 society year in April. Active dues are \$85 and reserve dues are \$35. Reserve dues are only available to members who are unable to participate in the activities of the chapter due to physical disability or geographic location.

Deadline for dues is June 30th. Please make checks payable to Delta Kappa Gamma and mail to:

Rhonda Work
3510 Lakeshore Dr
Tallahassee, FL 32312

Your early payment is greatly appreciated.

**MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL**
Annual Dues

Member Spotlight – June Townsend



June Woodyard Townsend grew up the daughter of a United States Air Force officer. She enjoyed living/learning all over the World, including Texas (where she was born), Colorado, Illinois, Massachusetts, Florida, and New Jersey, as well as the Philippine Islands, Germany, and France. Her first two years of college she attended the University of Maryland (Bavarian Campus in Munich, Germany), while her family was stationed in France. After returning from Europe, she earned her A.S. degree at Palm Beach Junior College in Lake Worth, Florida. She then transferred to Florida State University in January 1966, where she met her future husband in her first Monday morning class—chemistry. He was also a military kid, whose parents at the time were still in France, only 60 km from where she had lived in Chateauroux. In 1967 June earned her B.S. degree, in Vocational Home Economics Education/Home Economics Extension Education, and continued at FSU and to complete her M.S. in Vocational Home Economics Education in 1969.

After graduation, she was employed as a Home Economist for Florida Power and Light Company in Stuart, FL. She and Charles (Chip) P. Townsend, Jr. were married in September 1969. Upon completion of his active duty in the US Army Reserves, they returned to Tallahassee. With boxes still piled high in their apartment, she interviewed for a teaching position on Monday and started work on Tuesday at the brand, new Fairview M.S. She spent the next 32 years working for Leon County Schools in a variety of roles including, teacher—7th grade science at Fairview M.S., secondary Home Economics -- Food & Nutrition, Clothing & Textiles, Family Economics, and Housing & Home Furnishings at Rickards H.S., (where she was Future Homemakers of America Advisor, and Dressmaking at Lively Vocational Technical School. She then served as Districtwide coordinator of Home Economics, Project Manager for Adult Countywide Home Economics, Community Education Coordinator, and Assistant Principal at Adult & Community Education, until her retirement in 2002. During that time they had two daughters, Carole and Cheryl, who unlike their parents were born and grew up in one place--Tallahassee. Happily, both of them have returned home, after beginning their careers in Jacksonville and South Florida.

June was invited to membership in Alpha Kappa by Leonora Lawrence and initiated into Alpha Kappa in November, 1976. She has been an active member ever since and served Alpha Kappa in a variety of positions, including Treasurer and President, and several different committee chairmen over the years. She also served on the Mu State Headquarters committee both during the acquisition phase--working with realtors and seeking a suitable property in the State Capital-- and again in 2000-2002 and on the State World Fellowship Committee. In 1981, she was a delegate to the Mu State Leadership Growth Seminar, and in 1988, she was a presenter. June has received many awards during her illustrious career, but none as meaningful to her as an “Outstanding Service Award” from the FSU College of Home Economics, and being inducted by Adult and Community Educators of Florida into the Florida Administrators of Adult and Community Education Hall of Fame.

June has always been involved in the community, serving on the board of the Healthy Start Coalition for ten years, including as president and secretary, the American Heart Association, as president, secretary and chairman of the inaugural CPR Rally, held at the civic center, the Leon Vocational Association, and the FSU Home Economics Alumni Association, serving twice at its president. Since her retirement June has become an accomplished stained-glass artist and loves to create customized panels for friends and charities. She has fully enjoyed retirement, with membership at Premier Health & Fitness center, and a home-based business, encouraging individuals to take control of their own health and improve their wellbeing. She became active in BNI (Business Networking International), the Women’s Prosperity Network, the Tallahassee Chamber of

Commerce, and the Leon-Wakulla Retired Educators' Association, where she has twice served as president. She and Chip are members of St. Paul's UMC. June and Chip have also become art collectors, and love to cruise and travel. They are looking forward to cruising again post-pandemic. Her free time is spent with her daughters, and especially enjoy their time together in Carole's pool.

Southern Scholarship Foundation Honored House Champions – Nancy Watson

On April 26 the Southern Scholarship Foundation honored House Champions via Zoom with an end of the year Appreciation Social. Nancy Watson, our past-president, represented Delta Kappa Gamma, Alpha Kappa for our project with the Lundquist-Hovda House. There are 21 houses across four universities (e.g., FSU, FAMU, UF, and FGCU) that have Champions like Alpha Kappa, but five houses do not yet have Champions.

House Champions were encouraged to use the House Managers to keep up to date on the house needs and to coordinate visits. Houses where 80% of residents are vaccinated and/or have had Covid-19 will be allowed to operate as usual in the fall. Those below 80% will continue to wear masks, social distance, and will not be allowed visitors.

The House Champions outlined their activities with the residents and some of the outstanding events during the past year. SSF residents have been doing entry level office work and have internships. Some have assisted with fund raisers, met with Champions outside of the houses for community events or gardening classes. Some Champion groups shared their own talents with the residents for things like resume writing and insurance seminars. Many Champions continued to "Pack the Pantry" while conducting Zoom connections during the Pandemic, while others donated gift cards for back-to-school startups, household items, or student books.

The relationships between the residents and House Champions are different from group to group, but very important for supporting the Southern Scholarship Foundations' mission of providing opportunities for students in need that are seeking their post-secondary education.



Thank you to all the Alpha Kappa members who made donations, delivered supplies, mentored residents, or attending the Zoom meetings in support of the Lundquist-Hodva residents. And thanks to Nancy Watson for representing us.



President Biden nominates former Congresswoman Gwen Graham for Assistant Secretary of Education (Excerpts from Tallahassee Democrat 4/17/2021)

Gwen Graham, a former congresswoman from Tallahassee and daughter of one of Florida's most popular statesmen, has been tapped by President Joe Biden to a key advisory position in the Department of Education.

Graham was one of eight nominees for key administrative posts announced by the White House Friday.

Provided her nomination is confirmed by the Senate, Graham will become Assistant Secretary of Education for Legislation and Congressional Relations at the Department of Education.

“I’m inspired by and share President Biden’s deep commitment to America’s students and educators. My own passion for education is woven throughout my life,” Graham said in a text message to the Tallahassee Democrat. It’s a good fit for Graham, who was an administrator with Leon County Schools. **Congratulations on the nomination from your AK Sisters. Gwen is an honorary member of the Florida State Organization of Delta Kappa Gamma.**

Founder’s Day Zoom Meeting and Honor Ceremony a Success! Alpha Kappa had 17 members attending. Sharon Simons, the BBC Chairperson presided; Nancy Henning introduced

Loranne Ausley who was honored; Ann Comforter, District I Director and Nancy Rosenbaum, our President, recognized AK for being awarded the Communication Award and for being the only chapter in District I to achieve the award. The chapter presidents spoke about the founders during the ceremony. Rhonda



Work with the assistance of Connie Lewis set up the table to honor the founders. Two Grants in Aids were presented and Rhonda Work gave the Necrology report on Kathryn “Kitty” Hoffman, an AK member who passed at the age of 105. The meeting was adjourned by the singing of the DKG song.

Way to Go Alpha Kappa! For the fourth year in a row, our chapter has received the **Communication Award**. It is given to those chapters who meet the requirements set by the FL-State Communication Committee. We are so proud of all our members who contributed to the content of the newsletter and made this award possible. It gives our chapter visibility among the chapters in the state. We appreciate Connie Lewis who puts the newsletter together and all of you who have contributed!



New Historical Marker shows Location of Tallahassee's Oldest Congregation

Tallahassee's Trinity United Methodist Church on Park Avenue is already preparing for its 200th anniversary in 2024. Just before Easter on April 1, Trinity's Historical Society erected a State of Florida historic marker in front of the church with the cooperation of the Secretary of State.

It gives a brief history of the church, its outreach and service to citizens of the City of Tallahassee. Trinity will observe its 200th anniversary with public celebrations on Sunday, Sept. 29, 2024. The celebrations, as well as those of the City of Tallahassee, will be open to the public.

Rhonda Work (see image below) finds time to serve her church and the community in addition to her involvement with Alpha Kappa as its longtime treasurer and current State meeting registrar/ treasurer. Her commitment to the State is a two-year stint.



Rhonda Work is chair of the Trinity United Methodist Church historical society. She is shown above with Pastor Wayne Wiatt outside the church with the newly installed historical marker. (Full Article in TD on Sat. April 10, 2021 in TLH Life Section)

We are so glad Rhonda is our sister! What a gem!

Congratulations are in Order for...

EDUCATION Excellence

Nancy Rosenbaum, our chapter president, who will be the Chair of the FL State Education Excellence Committee for the next two years. She was asked to serve in this capacity by the incoming FL State President, Roxanne Berger.



Monica Hayes and **Susan Vinson** who were accepted to attend the 2021 Florida Jesslyn McBride Leadership Seminar, June 13-16.

Melanie Hester, Florida State University School's National Honor Society sponsor, speaks about the new class of 63 initiates, saying, "Highest achieving students are not just leaders, they are respected role models in their schools. National Honor Society (NHS) gives these students a place to hone their leadership skills and get the recognition for the academic achievements they earned. Yet membership in NHS goes beyond just academic achievement. All members reflect the organization's 4 pillars of scholarship, service, leadership, and character. Students are expected to continue to demonstrate these pillars within their school community and their community at large. These ideals will leave a lasting impact on all members as active citizens with achievable goals". **And AK knows that you, Melanie, also model these pillars! We are so glad you are our society sister.**



On May 13th at Senior Awards Ceremony the Florida High School Class of 2021 13-Year Club recognized **Nancy Rosenbaum** as their Teacher of the Year. They framed one of their class t-shirts from when they were in the 5th grade so she can hang it on her wall to always remember them. Nancy said, "It seems like just yesterday that they were 5th graders and now they are preparing to head to college."

Something Fun From . . .

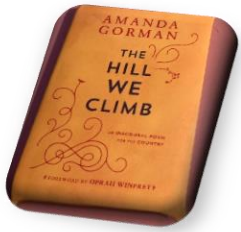
Jo Anne Arnett - Tallahassee Christian College and Training Center is experiencing a post-covid "rebirth". We are seeing an influx of new students and are excited about the future.



Gina Daniels - I will be retiring after 35 years as an educator on June 30, 2021.



Monica Hayes - I am nearing the end of a certification program to become a Certified Aromatherapist. I've passed the first test, two more tests, and a 10 page-paper to go. I will be providing consultations and products I make with ingredients that are pure and unadulterated.



Delores Hudson - From a friend I received a copy in book form of the poem "The Hill We Climb" by Amanda Gorman. I really enjoy reading and rereading it.

Connie Lewis - For the first time in 3 1/2 years my husband, Perry and I were able to take a vacation. My brother traveled by car from Tulsa so we could have a sibling reunion with my sister, which has not happened for the three of us in many, many years. We thoroughly enjoyed catching up, laughing, and just being together. We enjoyed Englewood - great foods, Sand Key Clearwater Beach, and then home where my son and his wife treated us to a Mother's Day Brunch and family members got to meet each other for the first time. A memorable trip for sure!



ENJOY!