

**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 August/September, 2021**

**Prepared by Connie Lewis**

## **President's Message**

The summer has come and gone and for many of us a new school year has begun! This is always an exciting time of the year for a fresh start as educators. We are seeing old faces as well as meeting new ones, reflecting on our previous year so that we can improve, and hopefully we are feeling rejuvenated! I hope we all feel this way about Delta Kappa Gamma as well! As the year begins, we are still facing the challenge of COVID with the Delta variant. We were hoping to start our year with an in-person meeting. However, in an abundance of caution, we are holding off on meeting in person until September. In the meantime, we still look forward to seeing all your faces on Zoom for our August Kick-Off Meeting! We will be welcoming prospective new members to this meeting so they can meet us and learn a little about our wonderful sisterhood. I hope that you will think about Key Women Educators in your lives and consider inviting them to join us for this August meeting as well as consider extending them an invitation to apply to join our chapter!



In our summer interest survey, there were MANY excellent ideas shared for programs, projects, and more! Soon you will be receiving a list of existing Alpha Kappa committees. We hope that you will consider joining one of these committees so that we can make some of these programs and projects come to life!

In addition to recruiting new members, we are preparing for the next biennium! Officer elections will be taking place by the end of the 2021 and we are looking for **leaders** to join our executive board. I hope you will consider this challenge! Please feel free to reach out to me if you are interested in an elected role or if you would like to nominate a fellow sister!

I pray you are all doing well and staying safe! See you on August 28th!

## **Member Spotlight – Carole Jo Hardiman**

**From Warrior to Seminole** - Carole Jo Murdock Hardiman was born in Warrior, Alabama. She attended elementary and high school in Warrior, Home of the Warrior Indians Football team. She was active in many clubs and activities throughout her school years. She moved to Tallahassee with her parents in 1962 the day after she graduated from high school. Her intentions were to return to the University of Alabama for her college years, but after spending a summer in Tallahassee, making new friends, visiting the FSU campus and meeting with Vice President Chalmers regarding the Honor Program, she decided that staying at home and attending the 9000-student university was a better choice. Thus, in the Fall of 1962, she became a Freshman at FSU and a member of the Seminole nation. She planned to major in Radio and TV through the Speech Department, with the ultimate career goal of becoming a “Weather Girl” for TV. During her Speech 101 class, her instructor told her that if she wanted to major in Radio and TV, she was going to have to do something about her substandard southern speech pattern. She went to the FSU Speech and Hearing Clinic where she could learn to analyze her own speech and voice patterns and develop goals centered on these



areas. This appealed to her. Subsequently, she enrolled in an introductory course in Speech Disorders. This choice launched her studies in speech therapy, a new and growing field. She majored in Audiology and Speech Therapy, graduating with a B.S. She met and married Tony Hardiman. She worked in the Leon County Schools where there was only one speech therapist on staff. In 1966 The American Speech & Hearing Association upgraded certification to a Master's Degree requirement which required a Clinical Fellowship Year and passing of a national examination to practice in the profession. The State of Florida was the first state to initiate licensing of speech therapists and audiologists. Carol Jo completed her Masters in 1967 at FSU, while at the Easter Seal Rehabilitation Center where she worked for 3 years later becoming the Director of Clinical Services.

In 1969 FSU received a grant from the State Vocational Rehabilitation Office to establish the regional Rehabilitation Center at the university. Carole Jo was recruited at the master's level SLP. Working in that position for over 5 years, she then became the clinical program director. Throughout her career at FSU, she directed the internship program, taught various clinical and academic courses, completed research and collaborated on publications with various colleagues, directed the Speech and Hearing Clinic and Clinical Education Program, while serving in leadership positions with local, state, and national professional organizations.

Carole Jo served as President of the Florida Language, Speech and Hearing Association (FLASHA), served on the Florida Licensing Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, and as an ASHA Legislative Councilor representing the state of Florida for eight years. She was awarded Honors and the Clinical Career Award by FLASHA. She is also an ASHA Fellow.

Carole Jo served as a faculty member for the Department of Communication Disorders at FSU and before she COULD SAY SEMINOLE rapidly three times, she had been there for 35 years, retiring in 2004 as a professor. She came to FSU as a Warrior and left as a Seminole.

Her Delta Kappa Gamma life began in 1986 by invitation of Rhonda Work. She has been an active member having served as Alpha Kappa Chapter President (1998-2000) and on several committees throughout the years. She continues to participate in activities of the chapter and feels so honored to enjoy the sisterhood and close ties with her outstanding intergenerational sisters.

Carole Jo continues to live in Tallahassee, enjoys camping and travel, spending time with family, volunteering in church activities while providing consultative services relative to communication disorders at the Florida Department of Disability Determination.

## **Membership Update**

We are currently accepting nominations for membership in Alpha Kappa! Do you know a Key Woman Educator that you would like to invite into our sisterhood? Please take a moment to email our membership chair, Lisa Phillips ([lgphillips@fsu.edu](mailto:lgphillips@fsu.edu)), to share the names and contact information for anyone interested in membership. Be sure to invite them to our August Kick-Off Meeting on August 28th @ 10am! Please see the membership recruitment timeline below:

- Nominations being accepted by Lisa Phillips until ***Friday, September 17th.***
- Membership applications (nominee will receive invitation letter and application from Lisa Phillips via email) due to Lisa Phillips by ***Friday, September 24th***
- Virtual Google Form Ballot will be sent to chapter members with nominee bios for voting on ***Monday, September 27th.***
- Membership voting will close on ***Friday, October 1st.***
- New members will receive acceptance correspondence during the **week of October 4th.**

- New member orientation will be held in October (Date/Time TBA). New members will receive information about the new member orientation in their acceptance letter.

## 2021 DKG Leadership Training Retreat Reflection – Nancy Rosenbaum

I spent my last weekend before going back to school in Atlanta at the 2021 Delta Kappa Gamma Leadership Training Retreat. This biennium I will serve as the Florida State Organization Educational Excellence Chair. I had a **wonderful time** learning about my new role while also getting to know the other leaders of our state organization better. I am blessed to be collaborating with a dynamic group of women.

I “met” one of the other committee chairs for the state for the first time this weekend. I was introduced to her by first name and while talking about flights, I realized she lives in my hometown! I shared that I was a Lemon Bay graduate from the Class of ‘97 to which she responded, “Did you go to L.A. Ainger? Did you go to Vineland Elementary?” In that moment, I glanced down at her nametag and realized that this woman, I had just met, was someone I had known most of my life! We were introduced by first names only but suddenly I knew I was sitting in front of Mrs. Holleran, my elementary guidance counselor! I immediately shared my maiden-name and everything clicked into place for both of us. She remembered my brother and me along with my family. It was so awesome after all these years to reunite! I’m thrilled that our committees will be working closely over the coming years.



I’m ready to start the school year focused on EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE and to share my heart and my passion with my future 5th graders!

## 2021 Florida Jesslyn McBride Leadership Seminar - Reflections

**Dr. Nancy Henning**, our AK sister and 2019-2021 President of Florida DKG was a speaker at the Seminar. Thank you for all you have done for the Society. We appreciate YOU!

**Dr. Monica Hayes** says the 2021 Florida Jesslyn McBride Leadership Seminar began with a sweet visit at the home of outgoing president Dr. Nancy Henning and her husband. Susan Vinson arrived shortly thereafter, and we set off for Lake Mary with Susan as our very competent and wonderful driver and conversation partner.

We arrived at a hotel still suffering from the impact of COVID on the hospitality industry. Thanks to the wonderful support and her storied relationship with the hotel staff, Carrie Frye saw to it that we received the best care they could offer with their very limited staff.

We were a wonderfully diverse group of 29 participants from all over the state of Florida. Of the 29, 7 of us identified as Women of Color. From beginning to end, every aspect of the seminar planning manifested the sisterhood so inherent in Delta Kappa Gamma. The sessions were well-planned. As we were moved around, grouped, and then regrouped, every action had a clearly defined purpose, that of getting to know one another, and learn from one another.



It was a splendid opportunity. I made quite a few new friends; from our already impactful communications, we will be in touch for a long time to come. I am indebted to Alpha Kappa for providing the scholarship for me to attend and participate in this invaluable experience.

**Susan Vinson** writes the 2021 Florida Jesslyn McBride Leadership Seminar was a treat to attend. During the 4 days we were together, the excellent facilitators guided us through a variety of activities with different focuses. One focus was on change- both the changes you control and those you have no control over. Throughout our lives, change is always happening and is unavoidable, so the 25 participants were challenged to reflect on the changes across their lives, and how to be adaptable, move forward, embrace change, and look for growth opportunities within those changes. This is true as an individual, and also for an organization. Adapting to a changing world is essential for any organization, so we discussed ways that this applied to DKG.

We explored ways to contribute to and build our chapters, as well as increasing our knowledge of all the facets of the DKG Organization. I was interested to learn why DKG partners with UNICEF in order to maximize the effectiveness of supporting international projects like Schools for Africa, and why monetary contributions are more cost effective than donated items.



The Seminar events during each day were well planned and the 4 days were time well spent. We practiced practical things, like facilitating a meeting using the Roberts rules of Order, and also identifying when those rules were not needed. We learned how to log in to the DKG website and locate the resources found there. Woven throughout the seminar were opportunities for developing insights into my own leadership style, and for appreciating the diverse abilities and leadership styles of others.

I especially enjoyed getting to know DKG members from all across the state, and building bonds with new friends. As you can imagine, all the members I met were wonderful to get to know! I look forward to seeing them at district and state events as leaders and participants. I encourage YOU to apply to attend. The Seminar is held every 2 years, and I highly recommend the experience!

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**Congratulations Ragina Daniels** on your 35 years of service to education. Ragina retired May 28, 2021 from teaching at Blountstown Elementary School. Enjoy retirement! You have earned it and many students have benefitted from your expertise.

In addition, Ragina’s family was in the Maryland/ Washington, DC area during our AK social. Her granddaughter was a part of the Junior National Leaders Conference on the campus of Maryland University. Her family is extremely proud of her. Looks like leadership runs in the family!



### **Summer Luncheon – Rhonda Work**

It was a rather balmy morning for July in Tallahassee, in the low 80’s with a light breeze. Around 11:00 a.m., sisters began arriving for the revival of Alpha Kappa’s summer luncheon, our summer social. We missed our 2020 get together due to COVID and were anxious to catch up with all the doings of everyone. The Draft House in Railroad Square provided outside dining on the porch, a perfect place to gather at one end away from other guests. With 22 sisters occupying three tables, the chatter began. We shared stories of our experiences during the pandemic, our plans for the coming year, and our hopes for travel, recreation - a more normal life. We were pleased to welcome two transfer members, Laura Casto and Jessica Deneen with her two precious children who added a special spark of enjoyment to the party. The restaurant provided menus and a “no touch” option to order food which was well received by everyone. A full two hours of fellowship and food – what more could you ask for.



Image provided by Delores Hudson

## A Tribute to Bobby Bowden from the Classroom – Nancy Rosenbaum

Back in spring 2009, I was teaching 3rd grade and my kids were working on publishing a book of “Flat Stanley” stories. Each of them created their own themed Flat Stanley, and I created a “Seminole Stanley” to model our class activities. The kids loved Seminole Stanley and thought it would be pretty cool if I sent him to Bobby Bowden to get his picture taken. I couldn’t let the kids down, so I found a way to get in contact with Bobby’s office and he graciously accepted my request. You should have seen the faces on those kids when the pictures came back with Bobby Bowden and Seminole Stanley together!

This is just a small example of the LARGE impact this man had on so many people. He was a tremendous leader and touched the lives of all ages. In the times our path’s crossed, he was always kind, humorous, and respectful. You could learn a lot just listening to the way he spoke to and about others. Bobby was fiercely loyal and passionate about God, family, and Florida State University. We need more role models like him in our world. May you Rest in Peace, Bobby Bowden. Thank you for being an amazing human being. ❤️



## Calendar 2021-2022

**First Chapter Meeting** – August 28, 10 – 12 via Zoom.

**Florida State Organization Fall Executive Board Meeting and Workshop** is coming up *Friday, September 17th - Saturday, September 18th!* The registration form has been sent to you previously by President Nancy Rosenbaum. Please pay careful attention to the registration deadline of September 1st, if you plan to attend!

This year, our state organization will be recognizing members who have joined DKG *within the past 5 years*. If you are in this group, please consider attending! We have a number of members in this category. Congratulations to all! We are so glad you chose Alpha Kappa. Our members include the following:



**2016** Nikki Abels  
Patricia Casey  
Monica Hayes  
Felecia Jackson  
Amanda Thai

**2017** Jessica Deneen  
Mary Margaret Enfinger  
Deborah Hannah  
Nancy Rosenbaum

**2018** Ruth Bickel  
Patricia Brownstein  
Laura Casto  
Lisa Phillips

**2019** Monica Broome  
Jennifer Guarraia

**2020** Jennifer Kinney  
Maria Pouncey  
Stacey Thompson  
Allyson Watson

