

**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 September/October, 2022 - Prepared by Connie Lewis

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

President's Message – Monica Hayes



Dear Sisters,

Let me begin by offering an affirmation and an apology.

I promise I affirm and respect the traditions of Alpha Kappa and the structure that has played a huge role in our chapter's longevity.

I apologize for wanting some time to test the water and infuse my own style and manner within those traditions. I apologize because I should have articulated more clearly at the outset what some folks might have been thinking/anticipating. I want to do some new things and revisit our

mission and goals to see where we are vis a vis them, none of which says that I disagree with what came before me, but I do have an interest in leading in a way that resonates more with my leadership style.

As I perused the membership list hoping to identify sisters interested in serving as chairs/members of committees, I noticed the number of sisters on the list, and the longevity of so many of them. We are lucky to have a treasure trove of talented and seasoned educators who are the cornerstones of our chapter.

I remember our Founder's Day celebrations and the stories about the original trailblazers who gathered at the University of Texas in 1929. Their courage and keen sense of purpose, their mission, and values, all inspire and motivate me as I begin my two-year journey as your president. They arose during troubling times, seeking recognition and to have their voices heard representing the interests of women educators. They understood their voices mattered; they also recognized the possibility of consequences.

I also thought about the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Teachers struggled not only to be there for their students, but also to make sense of their own lives. I remember meeting with teachers who sobbed silently thinking about the trivial things and the not so trivial things they no longer had...matching outfits and shoes, accessories to complete the look as professionals they longed to have. Books. Instead, they came in mismatched clothing to be there for students.

Sisters, we too are in difficult and troubling times. Administrators and teachers need to hear from us. Educators need to know we are here for them, willing to share the considerable knowledge and expertise, amassed over our collective lives, education, and experiences. Our roles can be many and varied, and certainly we will need to hear from our sisters. What needs will they identify?

They have come through two and a half years of daunting challenges due to a pandemic and educators currently face a separate set of challenges, complicated in part due to the impact of the pandemic on their lives, the children's lives, and the lives of families. Who better than us to be sounding boards, friends, mentors, strategists, and so much more?

Drop me a note, text, or call me if you're interested or would like to discuss further. The Executive Board and I are working to finalize dates for upcoming events and meetings so you can place them on your calendars. I am excited about this year and the work we can do together. I hope you are as well.

Wishing you All only the best,
Monica



2022 DKG International Convention in New Orleans



Thank you, Nancy Henning, for representing us at the International Conference. We appreciate YOU! You are a true key woman educator! (Top row, 6th from left)

Sara Watters – New District I Director

Greetings, Alpha Kappa! I am Sarah Watters, and I am honored to represent you as District I Director for the 22-24 biennium. With over 17 years of experience as a speech-language pathologist, I have worked in early intervention, home health, and a variety of school settings. I currently serve students in ESE classrooms and general education at Riversink elementary school in Wakulla County. My own children are in 9th, 7th, and 5th grade.



I joined DKG in 2016 because I thought it would be a good way to learn from fellow educators at my school. When inducted, I had no idea I would meet outstanding educators from around the state. Attending the Leadership Seminar in 2018 was a catalyst for me. As a result of attending Leadership, I have had the opportunity to present at Fall Workshops, State Conventions, and District Meetings. I have been on the Florida Leadership Seminar Committee Since 2019. With the provision of an FL DKG

Educational Foundation Professional Development Award, I completed a six-month training to facilitate teacher mental health groups. In September 2019, I was proud to launch the state's first "Happy Teacher Revolution" meeting. A grant from FL DKG EF in the Spring of 2022 allowed a team at my school to launch a house system schoolwide for our title 1 school.

My hope for our chapters and district is that we follow the words from our song,

"Forward moving ever!" So many women have invested in our society, and we have all benefitted from the foundation they built. Now it is our turn to move forward.



Member Highlight - Michelle Gayle



Michelle Y. Jones – Gayle, Ph.D. is first and foremost a Child of God. She is a native of Gainesville, Florida who is married to a remarkable man, Gary Gayle. She is the mother of three awesome young men. Dr. Gayle is a proud graduate of Florida State University where she earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education and a Master’s Degree in Educational Leadership. She earned her Doctorate Degree in Educational Leadership and Human Resource Development at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University. Currently, Dr. Gayle serves as the Deputy Superintendent for the Leon County School District. She is the first woman in the history of Leon County Schools to serve as the Deputy Superintendent.

In addition to being a proud member of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Key Women Educators Dr. Gayle is the Immediate Past President of the Beta Delta Sigma Alumnae Chapter in Tallahassee, Florida. She serves as the president of the National Association of University Women – Tallahassee Branch, The Rotary Club of Tallahassee Southside, Leadership Tallahassee, The Leon County - Tallahassee Council on the Status of Women and Girls, and numerous other civic organizations. She is also a member of several community service Boards including the Children’s Home Society, Girls on the Run of the Big Bend, and others too numerous to name. She firmly believes in being a blessing to others just as so many have blessed her during her lifetime.



Dr. Gayle taught at the elementary school level for six years before entering the administrative ranks. She was able to develop strong leadership skills by serving in various roles such as grade level chairperson, SITE chairperson, beginning teacher mentor, and district trainer for several innovative educational initiatives. She has served as a successful and effective elementary, middle and high school administrator. Dr. Gayle completed her administrative internship at Lillian C. Ruediger Elementary School. Her first principal assignment was at Griffin Middle School. She was honored to work with the students, dedicated teachers/staff, and the caring parents to enable the school to earn an “A” Florida School Accountability Grade during her first year as a principal. Further, she was honored to be recognized as the Leon County School District’s Ida S. Baker Distinguished Minority Educator of the Year while serving as a first-year principal at Griffin Middle School. Griffin Middle School continued to earn high Florida School Accountability Grades. This success has been attributed to creating a shared vision of excellence, empowering all stakeholders with data to drive decisions and instructional practices, and working together to ensure success for every learner.



Dr. Gayle was honored to serve as the proud principal of James S. Rickards High School from 2008 – 2012. Again, she was able to work with all stakeholders to enable the school to earn back-to-back “A” Florida School Accountability Grades. It should be noted that this was historical in

every sense of the word for the James S. Rickards High School community. Once again, she was able to work with incredible educators, parents, students and community members to create a shared vision of excellence, empowering all stakeholders with data to drive decisions and instruction, and working together as a team to ensure the success of every scholar.

Dr. Gayle has been honored to be recognized within the district, throughout the state and the nation for various accomplishments in educational leadership and community services. She is a past recipient of the Jo Glick Principal of the Year Award for the Leon County School District. She has served as a Lead Principal for Secondary Schools as well as serving as the first minority President of the Leon County Principals and Assistant Principals Association. She was honored to be named the Leon County District recipient of the University of Florida's Distinguished Educator. Dr. Gayle is very proud to have been recognized as a member of the 2019 Class of 25 Women that You Need to Know. She was also featured in the 2019 – 2020 TCC African American History Calendar. She is a member of the Leadership Tallahassee Class 38 which embodies the leadership of our community. She has served on various state educational committees and has earned state certification as a trainer for several educational initiatives including training teachers to work with beginning teachers and interns. She has been quoted and highlighted in several educational journals, websites, and books. She is currently working on a book that focuses on educational leadership and trends in the new millennium.

Dr. Gayle is a passionate instructional leader who prides herself on empowering others to allow them to realize their goals. "The mark of a leader is found in empowering others to become leaders...because there is a leader in all of us".



Ruth Bickel – Achievement

Ruth recently graduated from Florida State University with a Specialist Degree in Educational Leadership and Policy. Ruth has been appointed the Career and Technical Education Director at Florida State University Schools. She will be working closely with CTE instructors, assist with related programmatic issues, secure funding, and working to increase CTE programs at FSUS. Aside from being the CTE Director, she will continue teaching four Forensics I classes.

Orientation – Eleven New Members – Welcome to Alpha Kappa!

Code: R=Reinstated RT: Retired T=Transfer

Alpha Kappa held orientation on Saturday, August 20, 2022 via Zoom. Rhonda Work and Connie Lewis presented a Powerpoint overview of Delta Kappa Gamma. The new members will be inducted on September 18, 2022.



Katheryn Drake
RT: Leon Co Schools
Media Specialist



Madison Eto
Holy Comforter
Fifth Grade



Tiresia Galloway
Shanks High School
Assistant Principal



Amal Ibourk
FSU Asst Professor
Focus: Science Educ



Patricia Scott
T: Elementary School
Language Arts



Taita Scott
R: Leon Co Schools
Administrator



Patricia Gilleland
RT: Leon Co Schools
Library Science



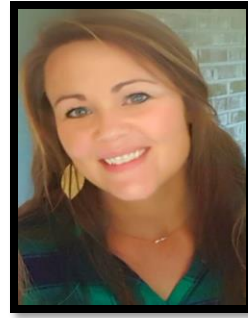
MaLynn Kelso
T: FSU-Teach Clinical Faculty
Master Teacher Science



Jazmine Hernandez
Florida State Univ School
Secondary Science



Lane Mathews
RT: Leon County Schools



Kristin Wilson
Jefferson County Schools
Science Instructional Schools

Project Reminders

The Early Learning Coalition (ELC) program "My First Books" and "All About Me" (5th year). AK members collect books for children ages birth through 8th grade. Children select a book of their choice to take home as their own. We are also collecting books for grades 9 – 12 as well. The books you select, must be new. For questions, contact Maria Pouncey at maria.pouncey@pace.org

The Second Harvest of the Big Bend "Back Pack" program provides 1,200 bags of nutritious food to food insecure students every week. Donations grow their ability to feed more students this school year. Without this important program, students may go hungry over the weekend and return to school distracted and struggle to reach their full potential. Since 2010, the Backpack Program has provided more than 1,000 bags of food weekly to children in the Big Bend Area. In Leon County alone, over 30 percent of our children in Tallahassee are food insecure.

FSU Southern Scholarship Foundation House, the Lundquist house. In past years, members of the chapter would meet at the house with the residents, bring meals to them and enjoy getting to know them face-to-face. Recently some of the chapter members met with the ladies via Zoom in a "getting-to-know-you" session. In addition to meals, the chapter provides supplies to "pack their pantry" and other items the ladies have on their wish list. They refer to AK members as their "House Champions". Please collect and send supplies and items to stock the pantry. Nancy Watson watsonnh@gmail.com is our contact member.

State Prison Library Materials - Charles Huber, the Prison Library Administrator will receive materials at any time and during their book drive around the end of the year. There are a wide variety of subject material needed. Recently, you were sent the list of books needed and the criteria for selecting them. Nikki Abels nikkiabels@gmail.com will collect and deliver them.



See Below



supplies for Alpha Kappa Educators

Directions: AK Educators on this list have created Amazon Wish Lists for their classrooms. Check out the Amazon Wish Lists by clicking on their **NAME** and consider sending something to one or two teachers (or more if you are able to) on the list! Items sent via Amazon Wish List will be delivered directly to the recipient. Before you check out, don't forget to update your Amazon Smile to one of the following: **DKG International Educators Foundation** OR **Florida DKG Educational Foundation Inc.** Proceeds from your purchase will be shared with the organization you designate!

[Patti Schwartz Brownstein](#)

Adult and Community Education, Reasoning Through Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies

[Laura Casto](#)

Media Specialist, Griffin Middle School

[Jennifer Guarraia](#)

5th Grade Language Arts and Science, Trinity Catholic School

[Melanie Hester](#)

High School Biology and Anatomy, Florida State University School

[Dawn James](#)

Kindergarten, DeSoto Trail Elementary School

[Micha Nowak](#)

9-12th grade science, Florida State University Schools

[Allison Prater](#)

Middle School Art, Florida State University Schools

[Nancy Rosenbaum](#)

5th Grade Science Florida State University Schools

[Ninamarie Sapuppo](#)

6th-8th Grade Fundamental Math Skills, Florida State University Schools

[Susan Vinson](#)

3rd Grade, Killearn Lakes Elementary



Want to be added to the list? Just add your Amazon Wish List to the AK Facebook Page!

It is not too late to add your wish list if you have one! Just go to our chapter Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/DKGFLAlphaKappa> and add your wish list to the comments for the post regarding Amazon Wish Lists. For those wishing to contribute to one or more of our members, go to the link above and click on comments to see the list. For questions, contact Nancy Rosenbaum at nancykrosenbaum@yahoo.com

Ninamarie Sapuppo - Educational Excellence Committee Representative

Ninamarie's 27-year career as a Mathematics instructor began with a Bachelor of Science in Statistics, a Master of Arts in Teaching Mathematics, and a National Board Certification in Secondary Mathematics. For the last twenty years, she has taught a variety of Middle and High School math classes at Florida State University Schools. Her interest in STEM activities and other leadership opportunities have added to the diverse roles she has held at FSUS.



She enjoys engaging with her students outside of the classroom and for ten years served as the Key Club Sponsor. During that time, she was awarded the "Southwood Volunteer of the Year" for her clubs' service to the community.

Other student-led volunteer activities include a three-year position as Director of Engineering for the Student Astronaut Challenge which takes place yearly at Kennedy Space Center. After her first year, she was asked to develop the middle and high school competition engineering problems.

Prior to COVID, she was able to share creative teaching ideas by presenting at various conferences such as T³ International, the Florida Council of Teachers of Mathematics (FCTM), CPALMS, and FSU's Learning Systems Institute (LSI).

Since FSUS is structured as a University School affiliated with its higher educational institution, Florida State University (FSU), many collaborative opportunities exist. A former supervisor invited her to take a one-year sabbatical to work on the Mathematics Formative Assessment Systems (MFAS) grant with a small team. During that year, she closely examined the then new Common Core Standards for Mathematics, and her team published over one hundred research-based Algebra and Geometry Formative Assessments on Cpalms.

Helping the next generation of teachers has been her pleasure and she has worked closely with leaders at FSU-Teach to mentor student teachers in that program. These relationships led to a research collaboration with FSU on a National Science Foundation (NSF) computer science and mathematics grant, CSIMMS which published teaching modules for integrating coding with middle school mathematics.

For several summers, she worked with a team from the Learning Systems Institute (LSI) at FSU on the integration of middle school math and science lessons using 3D-printed manipulatives. Her role was to share teaching strategies and provide support for understanding geometric concepts. She also trained participants to use a 3D printer so they could effectively teach corresponding lessons to their students. Another summer program involved Geometry standards training and reviewing teacher-created lessons for publishing on Cpalms.

For several years, she assumed the role of Research Coordinator at FSUS, connecting FSU researchers with FSUS teachers. During this time, she was awarded a grant of five 3D printers from Cpalms to share with elementary math teachers at FSUS. The goal was to incorporate printed manipulatives and integrated math lessons from My Stem Kits, LLC.

The Summer Institute for this past summer introduced Florida's new B.E.S.T. standards for mathematics and the new Civics standards. Kindergarten through grade 12 teachers were asked to create interactive mathematics lessons centered around the new Civics standards. Ninamarie's position was to review the lessons for accuracy and standards alignment to prepare them for publication.

Offering her experience in developing teachers, and aligning curriculum and standards has enriched her professional development over her educational career. She is excited to develop new friendships with the amazing women of Delta Kappa Gamma and to serve as the EEC member of the Alpha Kappa chapter.

Calendar of Events

- **July 12, 2022, 11 a.m. - 1:30 Summer Social at Railroad Craft House**
- **July 12 - 16, 2022 DKG International Convention, Sheraton, New Orleans, Louisiana.**
- **September 1, 2022 Applications will be available for 2023 Awards & Grants**
- **September 18, 2022, 1:30 p.m. BBCC Induction, (AK responsible for chairing, speaker, and staffing the welcome table) St. Stephens Luthern's Church, 2198 N Meridian Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32303**
- **September 23-24, 2022, Florida State Organization's Fall Executive Board Meeting & Workshops, Orlando Marriott, Lake Mary. Book rooms early.**
- **October 29, 2022, 10:00 a.m. Business and Program Meeting, Ginny Densmore's home, 9713 Waters Meet Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32312**
- **November TBA Meeting with Lundquist House Ladies**
- **December 12, 2022, 5 p.m., Business and Program Meeting, Holiday Gathering, Jo Anne Arnett's home, 2102 Lake Forest Dr., Tallahassee, FL 32303**
- **February 1, 2023 Awards & Grant Application Deadline**
- **April 2023 Award & Grant Recipients notified**