

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Alpha Kappa of Mu State

Newsletter - September, 2014



Summer has gone and its time for school again. May each member have a wonderful year. We had a great Fall Workshop, conducted by our new president, Dawn James. Thanks to all members who prepared the totes for Leon County's new teachers.

We have a new Alpha Kappa email address - alphakappatally@gmail.com. This is the address that Dawn James will use to send all notices to our membership. Please keep an eye you for notices.

Coming Up:

Program Meeting - Tuesday, October 7 at 5 p.m.

Leon County Public Library, Downtown Tallahassee

All members of the Big Bend Chapters. We have a very exciting meeting planned.

Denise Barrett to Speak

Denise Barrett will be the speaker at our October 7th meeting. She will talk about full implementation of MAFS and LAFS across the grades in the 2014-15 school year. She is the K-12 Director of Standards Implementation.

Both the Mathematics Florida Standards (MAFS) and Language Arts Florida Standards (LAFS) were approved by the Florida State Board of Education on February 18, 2014. In response to public concerns about these standards, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) in the Fall of 2013 opened three channels for the public to provide input to policy makers. First, three public meetings were held throughout the state at which attendees had the opportunity to communicate support for the standards as well as concerns about the standards. Second, a website was posted that presented information about the new standards, links to the proposed standards, transcripts of the public meetings, and other resources. A form was provided on the website for public input. Third, an email address was created for individuals to send their comments

directly to the FDOE. Based on the results of the public comment, in January of 2014, the Department recommended that changes be made to the original Common Core State Standards adopted in July 2010. Both of the finalized MAFS and LAFS are to be fully implemented across the grades in the 2014-15 school year.

From the 2013 press release announcing her statewide award:

Dr. Barrett-Johnson has used her leadership skills to create a safe, positive, and academically enriching learning environment for her students. Over the past two years, she has worked to build a successful literacy program at Lake Stevens Middle School, which contributed to improving the school's rating to a "B" Her most noteworthy accomplishments as an assistant principal include creating literacy programs, social studies education, building family and community partnerships, and motivating faculty, staff, and students. She believes that education is a community effort requiring the investment and resources of all stakeholders.

Membership Focus

It is time to consider nominating new membership. Please have your candidate complete the membership application and send to Dawn James. Initiation is close at hand. The date is not firm yet but the Coordinating Council will meet on September 13th to address this issue. The tentative dates are October 25 or November 1, 2014 for the Big Bend Chapters' Initiation. Alpha Kappa is responsible for programs and table decorations. The location will be announced soon. Watch the website for updates.

Congratulations to . . .

Dr. Sherrill Ragans - In the Chronicle (part of the Tallahassee Democrat), on July 24, 2014 there was a front page article about the Caribbean American Heritage Council of Tallahassee recognizing five individuals as Caribbean Americans and Friends of the Caribbean. Dr. Sherrill Ragans, retired Associate Vice President of Student Affairs at FSU, and a member of our chapter, was one of the honorees. See picture in [photo gallery](#).


Taita Scott - Named principal of Woodville Elementary School!!! We are so happy for you!

Susan Womble - Presented the 2014 Distinguished Teacher Award by the The National Council for Geographic Education.

In Memorium. . .

Minnie Lucile Williams - February 14, 1918 - August 8, 2014

Lucile Williams was an educator with a loving and generous heart. She had a passion for "opening the doors of opportunity for others" and of "being her brother's keeper." She was a beloved member of Alpha Kappa. She will be greatly missed.

Looking Back... 

Alpha Kappa members prepared 100 totes to be distributed to new teachers in the Leon County Public Schools this fall. Great job, ladies!

Looking Ahead 

Turn in your membership forms. We hope to have several new members this year.

Webpage 

Don't forget to send updates and photos to Connie Lewis! She will post them to our webpage.

Roses to ...

- Our new chapter officers.
- Gale Workman for arranging our speaker for October 7.
- Susan Vinson for her work with the teacher tote project. All of the members who brought breakfast food to Fall Workshop.

