

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 - December, 2018
Prepared by Connie Lewis

President's Message – Nancy Watson

Happy Thanksgiving to all! I am thankful for my DKG AK sisters. I hope that you had a holiday filled with friends and family, food, and many things to be thankful for.

We welcomed our two new inductees, Lisa Phillips and Ruth Bickel, in a joint BBCC induction ceremony and luncheon. We will also induct Patti Brownstein at our December 6th meeting. We look forward to the great things they will contribute to our chapter.

As we approach the hectic holiday season, I hope you will make time for the AK Cookie Exchange and Fellowship on December 6th at JoAnne Arnett's home from 6 – 8 pm. JoAnne is always a wonderful hostess. Bring your favorite holiday cookies, an appetizer to share, and a container to take home some wonderful holiday treats.

Susan Vinson – Member Spotlight



It's early in the morning, and 18 nine-year-olds are reciting the pledge of allegiance. It's a typical beginning of the day for teacher Susan Vinson. Yet no day is really typical says Mrs. Vinson. Each day brings its own unique moments and challenges.

Susan Vinson has been a teacher for 28 years, with 23 of those years spent teaching third grade. When asked how she became an educator, Susan Vinson said, "When I sat down to pick a major from all the options at Stetson, I narrowed it down to something I considered worth doing." She wanted to do a job that she felt could make a difference.

She did several other jobs before teaching. She said, "For a while after I graduated, I was working for my dad's business, doing bookkeeping. I enjoyed it but eventually I realized I wanted to do something with more of a benefit for others." She enjoys teaching and learning too. She has earned National Board certification and a master's in Educational Leadership. But for her, it's all about increasing the knowledge and confidence of her students. Her goal each day is to help students grow as citizens and members of a classroom community. She doesn't feel that learning has to be *made* fun- because learning is naturally fun. You can tell that she has a passion for reading, because her classroom is packed with books in every genre. She says, "I want to move my students from reading just to meet a goal- to reading for their own pleasure."

She said, “I’ve got parents who keep in touch with me, and some who have written me years later, and told me they are very appreciative of what I’ve done with their kids.” Over the years, she taught three children from the same family. Her passionate way of teaching has left lasting effects on these particular children. Their mother, Jennifer Taylor, said that Susan’s teaching adapts to meet the needs of each student. She said, “Mrs. Vinson was able to instill in all of them a wonderful set of work and study habits and the love of learning.” Her daughter, Belle, struggles cognitively, but felt happy in the class. Jennifer Taylor said, “To help a little girl feel accepted and not “dumb” and make them feel as smart as everyone else is the sign of a great teacher, and human. Mrs. Vinson is the best of both.”

She also loves sharing her craft with other teachers. She has led many trainings for teachers, in a variety of areas- including science and new technology programs. She is an active member of the Big Bend/ Leon Association for Science Teachers, the Technology Chair for her school, Killearn Lakes Elementary, and part of the Elementary STEM Leadership for Leon County. “When I’m teaching others, I learn a lot myself, so it really benefits me too!” she says.



Congratulations to our New Members
who were inducted on Saturday,
November 3, 2018, At the Elks Lodge.

Lisa Phillips



Ruth Bickel



Lisa and Ruth both teach at Florida State University School. Lisa is a secondary math teacher and Ruth is a secondary science teacher.

DKG News – Changes were made to the DKG Constitution and International Standing rules at the 2018 International Convention. Some of the changes are below:

- Changed the name of regional conferences to international conferences which provides opportunities for international leaders and particularly regional directors to collaborate. Members are invited to attend any and all conferences as desired.
- Members may now make proposed changes to the DKG Constitution every two years. Proposals for consideration must be submitted by October 1, 2019.
- Mu State is no longer the name of our state organization; it is now Florida, as each state organization of the Society shall be designated by a geographic area.
- A new membership category has been added: collegiate members. They shall be undergraduates or graduate students who meet established criteria.
- The membership year runs from July 1 – June 30.

Other:

The Administrative board voted to continue postal delivery of the *Bulletin: Collegial Exchange* and publish the *DKG News* only online.

There is now a Chat feature on the DKG website for assistance.

Remembering Marie S. Land

Marie, a faithful and loyal member of Alpha Kappa since 1991 passed on November 7th, 2018. She will be missed and fondly remembered.



TCC-DKG Profile Project!

Sisters: Thank you for your participation in this project.

TCC students submitted the profiles to Prof. Grant and he forwarded the profiles to me.

Six sisters who signed up for the project do not have profiles because the assigned student did not submit a profile.

If you will allow Connie Lewis to publish your edited version of the profile in the AK newsletter, please read, edit, proof your profile and email a copy to Connie Lewis at lewisc47@comcast. Connie will NOT publish a profile unless you have approved it! **Deadline for submission to Connie: Jan. 4, 2019.**

AK Meeting Schedule - Mark your Calendars!

- Sat., February 23, 2019, 10:05-12:15 - Legislative Meeting (BBCC), Eastside Library.
- Mon., April 1, 2019, 6 p.m., Program Meeting, Melissa Olson "Sanford Harmony, A training on social and emotional development of students", June Townsend's home.
- Apr., 26-28, 2019 - Mu State Spring Conference, Orlando Marriott, Lake Mary, FL
- Sat., May 18, 2019 - Founders' Day (BBCC), Place/Time TBA
- Thurs., June 27, 2019 - Celebration of Alpha Kappa 60th Birthday
- July, 2019, 11:30 am, Summer Social, place TBA
- Sept 18-20, 2019 - Mu State Fall Workshop and Executive Board Meeting, The Orlando Marriot Lake Mary, FL
- June 27, 2019 - Celebration of Alpha Kappa 60th Birthday.

MERRY



CHRISTMAS