

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Florida Rays



Planting, Watering and Growing Our Society

Vol. 63 No. 1

Mu State Organization of Key Women Educators

Fall 2017

Mu State Members Enjoy Southeast Regional Conference in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina



D. Graff-DKG SERC; July 2017

What's Inside?

Appreciation & Parliamentary Moment...	2
Greetings from the Mu State President...	3
Reflections from SERC.....	4
Executive Secretary & Ed Excellence.....	5
World Fellowship Tribute.....	6
Membership & FL Leadership Seminar...	7

Donations to FL Leadership Seminar.....	8
Keeping Your Chapter Connected.....	9
2017 Mu State Hall of Fame.....	10 & 11
Chapters Sharing their Vision.....	12
FL DKG Educational Foundation.....	13
Poetry Corner.....	13 & 14
Celebration of Life.....	15

2015 - 2017 Mu State Officers

President
Carol Ann Casey
 caseyca.dkg@gmail.com

First Vice-President
Dr. Nancy Henning
 the_hennings@yahoo.com

Second Vice-President
Roxanne Berger
 roxanne.berger45@gmail.com

Recording Secretary
Geraldine DeFelix
 deanie575@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary
Mary Lee Erhardt
 tootsquilt@cox.net

Parliamentarian
Dr. Helen Popovich
 hpopovich@mac.com

**Immediate Past
Mu State President**
Gerry Hacker
 pianosteel@hotmail.com

Florida Rays
 Mu State Organization
 The Delta Kappa Gamma Society
 International
 Volume 63, Number 1
 Fall 2017
Florida Rays: (USPS 091-890)
 (ISSN: 0896-3711)

Published 4 times each year by Mu State
 Organization of The Delta Kappa Gamma
 Society International at 531 Hadley Drive,
 Palm Harbor, FL 34683.

Periodical postage paid at Tallahassee, Florida
 and additional post offices.

POSTMASTER/MEMBERS: Send address
 changes to The Delta Kappa Gamma Society
 International, P.O. Box 1589, Austin, Texas
 78767-1589.

Editor
 Bonnie S. Kelley, Ed.S.
 531 Hadley Drive
 Palm Harbor, FL 34683
 Telephone: 727-786-1959
 E-mail: MuStateEditor@gmail.com

Appreciation from Immediate Past Mu State President

Mu State Sisters, I thank you for all you did for Mu State during the 2015 - 2017 biennium including your dedication to new members, your chapters, Mu State, work for our Society, and your friendship to make our members welcome. Thanks for sharing and presenting your exciting and valuable ideas and events with others.



I appreciate all the extra time and work you provided during the spring, and the tremendous job you did to make our convention special. Thank you for your dedication and prayers for Jim and me. They were much needed and made a difference to both of us.



I enjoyed seeing you at Fall Workshop—you are the best!

Love and blessings,
Gerry B.Hacker
 pianosteel@hotmail.com

Parliamentary Moment: Handling Business Smoothly

Dr. Helen Popovich
Mu State Parliamentarian
 hpopovich@mac.com



Meetings run more smoothly if members know when it's appropriate to offer various motions and understand the process for handling them. Test your knowledge by answering the following questions:

1. An officer's report concludes with a recommendation.

Is the motion to adopt the recommendation made immediately after the officer's report or during New Business?

Who makes the motion?
 Who seconds the motion?

2. A committee report concludes with a recommendation.

Is the motion to adopt the recommendation made immediately after the committee report or during New Business?

Who makes the motion?
 Who seconds the motion?

3. During Good of the Order at the end of the chapter's last meeting, a member recommended that the chapter consider giving gift baskets to new teachers. Then, at the current meeting, a motion is made to adopt that project.

Is this motion made during Unfinished Business or New Business?

Who can make the motion?

See answers on page 8...

Greetings from Carol Ann Casey Florida (Mu) State President

To all of my DKG sisters, I welcome you to the 2017 - 2019 biennium of the Florida Mu State Organization. I hope you had a wonderful summer and are beginning to enjoy a delightful fall. Your Florida Mu State officers met at the Orlando Marriott Lake Mary on August 20-21, 2017, for their officer training, and are ready and eager to serve you. Pictured from left to right seated on the couch are **Parliamentarian Dr. Helen Popovich, Immediate Past President Gerry Hacker, Treasurer Beverly Stagg, and First Vice-President Dr. Nancy Henning. Standing are Second Vice-President Roxanne Berger, President Carol Ann Casey, Recording Secretary Geraldine DeFelix, and Corresponding Secretary Mary Lee Erhardt.**



I do hope you were able to attend Fall Workshop. There was something for everyone. The weekend started on Friday evening with informative and interesting workshops which continued on Saturday. Then the fun began with a delightful Social Hour. Our new signature drink, the "Tudor Rose" was introduced. One dollar of each drink was donated back to our state fund that helps defray the costs of our members attending the US Forum Legislative Seminar in Washington, DC, in March of 2018, and our "Rally in Tally." Saturday's Executive Board Meeting brought the announcement and vote on establishing a NEW chapter. It will be **Delta Nu** in District IV located in Stuart, Martin County. Lunch topped off the weekend with our World Fellowship recipient at the University of Florida, **Alexandra Olszewska**, speaking to us; celebrating our "Golden Girls" with fifty or more years of membership; and recognizing our First Timers.

It's now time to get to work on a new year and biennium. It's time for renewal of membership. Time to reach out to current and new members in our chapters. Time to reach out to inactive members and encourage them to re-instate. They might just be waiting for you to invite them back. Time to find meaningful programs and activities to keep our members engaged and active. Give members a responsibility, so they have a purpose - a reason for belonging. Let them know they are needed.

It's also time to get involved and take on active leadership roles, no matter how small. In the next couple of months, you will be electing new chapter officers and selecting new committees in order to take part in training at the district meetings, so they will feel confident and ready to begin their duties in July. We are "Leading Women Educators." Yes, we are all leaders! That is one of the many traits that was noticed about you when invited to join this remarkable society. When asked to serve, accept. Better yet, volunteer. Remember that someone "noticed your work and standards and believed in your potential." It's time to step up to the plate.

As we start forming our focus and goals for this biennium, please share with me, the other officers, district directors, and committee chairs your ideas of what we are doing right and what we need to do to make this a more viable organization. Let us know your needs, thoughts, and concerns.



As we look to all of our challenges, possibilities, and dreams that are before us, even though they might take us out of our comfort zones, you/we "can do it." As we work together as a team/family, we "will do it."

"Oh, the Places We'll Go with DKG!"

Let me hear from you!

Carol Ann Casey
caseyca.dkg@gmail.com
954-437-4468 (H)
954-562-8948 (C)

Reflections from SERC



As DKG members landed at the Myrtle Beach Airport, they were greeted with a welcome message on a multi-screen monitor. Similarly, as attendees arrived at the Myrtle Beach Sheraton Hotel and Convention Center, there was another greeting on display. When members entered the hotel, South Carolina members warmly welcomed attendees to their state.



Before the First General Meeting on Wednesday night, 2017-2019 State Organization Presidents, Executive Secretaries, Membership Chairs, Educational Excellence Chairs, Treasurers, Webmasters, and Editors were provided leadership development training opportunities starting Monday night. Pictured above seated from left to right are **Mu State Editor Bonnie Kelley**, **Treasurer Beverly Stagg**, and **standing Executive Secretary Carrie Frye**, **Membership Chair Nancy Marmash**, and **Educational Excellence Chair Mary Jo Holleran**. South Carolina Night had The Ocean Drive Shag Club demonstrate different shag dance styles followed by The Embers who provided beach music for attendees to dance.

Several Mu State members presented concurrent sessions. **Carrie Frye** presented ***Tools and Tips for Vibrant Chapter Membership*** which shared resources and practices to empower and engage

all members leading to chapter growth. **Dr. Beverly Helms** presented ***Molly Member Seeks International Elected Position*** which traced the path that members would need to follow to be elected to an International Elected Position by convention attendees. The method would be presented as an amendment at the International Standing Rules. Both of the Electronic General Election Option and the Delegate Election Option were reviewed. **Dr. Peg Dunn-Snow** presented ***The HEAT is on! Rise to a Higher Degree Through DKG International Scholarships***. She raised awareness that \$6,000 or \$10,000 in DKG Scholarships opportunities are available to all members of the Society pursuing post-graduate degrees. Peg also presented ***Appreciative Inquiry: Your Conversation and Creativity Can Change Our Society*** which is the first part of a positive and creative two-step process to make changes at the grassroots level within our chapters. **Dr. Nancy Henning** co-presented ***Leading, Mentoring, and Sharing: Our Golden Gift 2016 Experience*** by describing how professional seminars, leadership development, personal growth experiences, and making global connections through DKG have impacted her personal and professional life.

A new addition to the agenda was a series of 10-Minute Take-Aways. **Past International President Dr. Beverly Helms** presented one entitled ***Election of International Positions by Convention Attendees*** which provided a quick discussion of amendments to be brought to the 2018 convention in Austin, Texas. **Myrna Santos**



presented a 10-Minute Take-Away on ***Educating the World, One Woman at a Time*** by providing specific examples of how contributions to the World Fellowship Fund have impacted education worldwide.

During Thursday's ***Impacting Literacy Luncheon***, **Dr. Peg Dunn-Snow** recognized the scholarship awardees. During one of the general sessions, **Mu State President Carol Ann Casey** led the group in singing ***Put a Little Music in Your Life*** and ***For Friendships We Cherish***. During the US Forum, **Carrie Frye** lead a ***Moment of Inspiration*** as the Past SERC Representative to the US Forum. During Saturday's Impacting Leadership Luncheon, **Mu State Past President Merle Jones** provided the ***Inspiration*** before the meal.

From the Desk of the Executive Secretary...



Carrie Frye
cfrye@att.net
(386) 668-4409

On behalf of the DKG members of FL (Mu) State Organization, I wish to express to **Judith Mix** on her retirement from the state executive secretary position our sincerest gratitude for her exemplary service in that role. Judith has set the bar very high for anyone following her as she served with grace, diligence, and dedication. Thank you, Judith!

Judith provided service to every member in Florida. As some of you have already experienced, I plan to follow Judith's example. If you have a question, a concern, or just wish to share, I will respond promptly. Please make note of the following:

1. If I don't know, I can't help. Contact me about any DKG matter.
2. Keep me current of your contact information. Send changes immediately.
3. A message of "high importance" sent to anyone by me is from our state president, Carol Ann Casey, or me, and requires your attention and/or action immediately.
4. Messages sent to chapter presidents with a note to forward to all chapter members are important and should be forwarded promptly! A chapter president is the liaison between state officers and the member.

By working cohesively and expeditiously, we will keep our members well informed. Timely communication is key to the success of our state organization. Thank you for the confidence you have placed in me as your newly-elected executive secretary. I look forward to working with and serving each of you.

Educational Excellence Committee

Mary Jo Holleran, Chair
mholleran8890@gmail.
com



As our committee explores and shares professional and personal growth opportunities throughout Mu State, we recognize that one size does not fit all. What may work in one chapter or community may not be the best fit in another. One common goal within DKG, however, is life-long learning and training.

In that vein, **Gamma Nu Chapter** in District VI has taken a leap in organizing its first annual Coffee, Donuts and Literacy. This event is designed to bring together a chapter and its community for a morning focused on literacy. Gamma Nu invites you to attend and grow as the chapter has gathered several local community resources to present at their Saturday morning mini-conference.

All chapters are encouraged to borrow this model, perhaps focusing on a topic that is relevant in your area. Concurrent one-hour sessions are planned and those who attend will be asked to choose and attend the two in which they are most interested. The event goals are listed below.

Reading-related giveaways and raffle drawings are included and everything that is offered, from presentations to refreshments to venue, has been donated! It's a chapter fundraiser charged with delivering four essential goals to its audience.

Goals:

- *To raise awareness of community's literacy needs
- *Provide resources and education for literacy need
- *Share the literacy expertise of our DKG chapter members
- *Raise awareness of the goals/purposes of Delta Kappa Gamma

Audience:

- *teachers in public/private preschool-12th grade
- *parents
- *community members interested in literacy

Chapter presidents are asked to share their own chapters' unique personal and professional growth models with me at the email address above and we will feature your ideas here soon! If any of your chapter officers and/or members want to attend Coffee, Donuts and Literacy, please email me and I will make sure you receive an informational flyer to share.

A World Fellowship Tribute: Music Around the World



Katrina McMenemy, Committee Member
Mu State World Fellowship
mholleran8890@gmail.com



Myrna J. Santos
ESLCARE@aol.com
Chair, Mu State World Fellowship Committee
Member, International World Fellowship Committee

The sounds of music from around the globe filled the air at the World Fellowship Tribute Concert, *Music Around the World*, that was presented on April 8th at the Fort Pierce Magnet School of the Arts in St. Lucie County. **World Fellowship Committee Chair Myrna Santos** organized the performance by local musicians, including **Tau Chapter members Shakiya Drayton** on percussion, **Joann Kinder** on flute and horn, **Katrina McMenemy** on clarinet, and **Melissa Roeder** on bassoon. Musical selections were chosen to represent the countries of current World Fellowship recipients. **Katrina McMenemy** did an outstanding job in coordinating the music.

The first piece performed was *Four Bagatelles* by Terrence Greaves, performed in honor of recipient Rebecca Tollan of the U.K. who is earning her Ph.D. in Linguistics. The home country of recipient Iryna Gudyma was the inspiration for Ukrainian composer Myroslav Skoryk's *Partita No. 7* for woodwind quintet. Gudyma is pursuing her Master's degree in Globalization and Development Communication.

Students from Ft. Pierce Magnet also contributed to the performance. The school's steel drum band, *Pan-tastic!*, performed traditional music of the Caribbean to recognize the recipients from that region. The concert culminated with the rousing *Ritmo Jondo (Flamenco)* by Spanish composer Carlos Surinach. This exciting piece, featuring percussion instruments and hand clappers, was chosen to represent recipient Teresa Zulueta Coarasa who is working toward her Ph.D. in biomedical engineering.

Audience members at the concert not only enjoyed a wonderful musical performance – they also had an opportunity to learn a little more about the World Fellowship Program and about the cultures of some of the recipients. The Committee plans to make this a biennial event that will be hosted at different locations throughout Florida and will raise proceeds to benefit World Fellowship Scholarship awardees. Plans are under way to present a *Music Around the World* concert in the District V area in 2019.



Photo: St. Lucie county musicians (from left) **James Thoma, Jenny Rosser, Josh Woods, Melissa Roeder, and Joann Kinder** perform Spanish composer Carlos Surinach's *Ritmo Jondo* at the World Fellowship Tribute concert.



Celebrate Your Chapter Members

**Nancy Marmesh, Chair
Membership/Expansion
nmarmesh@aol.com**



As part of Fall Workshop, we celebrated our FL DKG Golden Girls. These are ladies who have been members of Delta Kappa Gamma for 50 years or more. The Golden Girls are our treasures. They inspired and paved the way for many of us in DKG.

Here's a question to think about...How are you celebrating the members in your chapter?

There are so many ways to make connections. Find a way to celebrate the ladies in your group by letting them share their special talents. Recognize ladies as they reach membership milestones. Celebrate birthdays. Share professional and personal accomplishments. Please email me and let me know the creative ways you celebrate your chapter members. I would love to hear from you. Let's get the word out.

Reminder: Prompt notification of the death of a member (Form 6) should be completed by the chapter president and sent to **Membership Services Administration** at mem@dkg.org, **Mu State Treasurer Beverly Stagg** at bastagg@hotmail.com, and **Mu State Necrology Representative Joann Higgins** at gamanuhiggins@yahoo.com



The 2018 Florida Jesslyn McBride Leadership Seminar

**Carleen Spano
cspano@comcast.net**

Now is the time....
Now is YOUR time!
You are invited to submit an application to attend the next Jesslyn McBride Leadership Seminar. It will be held from June 24 – 27, 2018, at the Marriott Lake



Mary and it is the perfect opportunity for you to take some well-deserved time for yourself. So what takes place at this event? It does morph somewhat each time it is offered, largely due to the goal of keeping up with new research, new technologies and participant feedback, but the goal is always to focus on professional, personal and society issues and development.

Whether you are a new educator looking to sharpen your skills, a seasoned professional pursuing advancement, or a retiree seeking a refresher, there is a meaningful experience waiting for you at the seminar. We gather on Sunday afternoon with get-acquainted activities and events which provide fellowship and opportunities for all attendees to connect with each other. This has been one of the highlights of the experience as those attending Mu State meetings continue to fondly reconnect with classmates from past seminars.

Opportunities abound to participate in learning experiences, both prescribed and self-selected. These sessions address thoughtful concepts in today's educational environment and the rapidly changing landscape of best practices. Personal self-reflection and goal-setting is also a featured component of the seminar and participants are provided the time to thoughtfully examine and define purpose and aspiration for themselves. And time is also provided to address Society issues, both at the chapter level and service beyond the chapter.

So what are the obligations? Well, you need to get yourself there. Travel is the responsibility of the participant. There is also a \$150 commitment fee for those accepted; however, many chapters willingly pay this fee. All materials are included as is the hotel room (double occupancy), and all meals and snacks except for Monday night's dinner. That meal is a great opportunity to visit one of the local restaurants with those who enjoy the same type of cuisine – anything from McDonald's to Ruth's Chris Steak House.

Sign me up! It's as easy as downloading the application from the Mu State website. If you attended the fall workshop, there was a Leadership table with onsite applications accepted. Please note that the Seminar is held only once each biennium, so this is your chance to be a part of a very special group of women educators from Florida who come together to grow professionally and personally, while strengthening our Society at the chapter and state level. Sign up today!

Keeping Your Chapter Connected!

**Neena Grosvenor, Chair
Communications and Publicity Committee
mustatecommunicationscommittee@gmail.com**



As your new Communications Committee Chair, my goal is to increase the web presence of more chapters, to promote connections among chapters within our state, and to inform members of updates from state committees. With the number of digital tools at our fingertips, and with a little bit of planning, it is possible to share ideas and resources at any time.

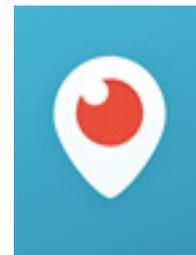
Many of today's teachers are integrating the use of technology in their classroom. Since we are an organization of educators, the use of technology should also be reflected within our chapters. Like many of today's teachers, we must embrace the use of digital tools to connect with members on a regular basis and showcase the important work that we do.

It is necessary to incorporate digital tools in order to stay relevant and viable in this fast-paced, Internet-based society. Using social media and having a web presence is vital to the longevity of our organization. Additionally, keeping members in the loop is critical to the organization's success.



Delta Kappa Gamma has several chapters that have embraced the use of technology, thus keeping their membership informed and connected. More chapters need to take up the charge to build a web presence for the purpose of keeping members informed and ultimately, to attract new member candidates. Having a web presence is a great way to share the wonderful work each chapter is doing to support the community and to support educators and students in local schools. Staying connected is much easier to do with the myriad of free digital tools available. The goal of the Communications Committee is to increase the use of digital tools in more chapters in Mu State.

The Communications Committee is tasked with assisting chapters in finding ways to keep members informed through the use of digital tools, such as a chapter website and social media apps. The Communications Committee has asked each chapter president to select a member from their chapter to be the communications representative. This will ensure that members stay informed of updates from both the state and international committees. Workshops were conducted by the Communications Committee at the Mu State Fall Workshop / Executive Board Meeting on September 22 & 23, 2017. Additional workshops will be held at the upcoming district meetings next year. We will be sending out a survey to each chapter to determine the digital tools being used in chapters throughout the state. Please consider each category of the survey since the questions being asked will inform you of the areas that need to be addressed in order to be eligible for the Mu State Communications Award. More information will be forthcoming regarding the criteria for this award.



Finally, we are all very busy, but please encourage chapter members (especially those serving as officers) to monitor email and social media apps regularly to stay current in order to support the work of the chapter, district, and state initiatives. I look forward to meeting you in person at future district and state meetings.

A Tribute to the 2017 Mu State Hall of Fame



Barbara VanDiepen, Chair Awards Committee

The women inducted into the Mu State Hall of Fame represent the finest ideals of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. It is through their labors and distinguished service that Mu State has become a viable and healthy organization of members committed to education and to each other.

These inductees are true examples of women helping women. May their example cause many more to follow in their footsteps so that the future of our Society will be assured. As we honor them, we are honoring Annie Webb Blanton and her inspiring ideals. In recognizing the service of these women, we are honoring the contributions and service of all our DKG sisters.

Joanne Hogan

Initiated in 1973 into Omega Chapter in Maryland, Joanne Hogan transferred in 1990 to **Beta Kappa Chapter** in Florida. At the chapter level, she served as treasurer and president.

Since moving to Florida, Joanne has attended all district and state meetings, served on both the Nominations and Scholarship Committees, and assisted with registration for state meetings.



She has attended the Southeast Regional Convention in Biloxi and international conventions in Baltimore, Williamsburg, and Little Rock.

On the professional level, Joanne earned a Masters in Education. On a personal level, she has 2 sons, 1 daughter, 10 grandchildren, and 16 great grandchildren.

Jeanne Jones



Joanne's twin, Jeanne Jones was also initiated into the Omega Chapter of DKG in Maryland in 1973. In Maryland, she served as First Vice-President and Treasurer. From 1991-1993, Jeanne was President of Alpha Beta State.

In 2000, she transferred to **Beta Kappa Chapter** in Florida where she was President for two biennia. She has served on the Mu State Directory Committee, Awards Committee, and Membership Committee. Since 2000, she has attended district and state meetings. She has assisted with registration at state meetings. From 1987-1995 and 2004-2005, she attended both regional and international conventions.

Jeanne obtained her Bachelors in Education degree from Fairmont State College and Masters in Education degree from the University of Maryland. She served as President of Maryland State Teachers Association from 1973-1974, Maryland NEA Director from 1976-1980, and President of Maryland Retired Teachers Association from 1991-1992.

In 2015, her husband Morris C. Jones passed away. In addition to her six children, Jeanne has 15 grandchildren, and 11 great grandchildren.

Melissa (Missy) Jones



In 2008, Missy Jones was initiated into Beta Chi Chapter. At the chapter level, she served on the

Educational Excellence Committee, and Communications Committee before serving two consecutive terms as Chapter President from 2014-2018.

At the state level, she was a participant in the Mu State Leadership Seminar, State Meetings Registrar from 2008-2012, and Mu State Webmaster since 2015. In 2013, she was a presenter at the Southeast Regional Conference.

Missy earned her Bachelors of Education in Elementary Education, Masters of Curriculum and Instruction and Technology, and Educational Specialist degree in Instructional Leadership. She is married to her husband John, has a 19-year old son Ian, and 4 cats.

Jan T. Stevens



Initiated into **Rho Chapter** in 2001, Jan Stevens served as Program Chair, on the Nominations and Yearbook Committee, in addition to Chapter Treasurer from 2002-2010 and Chapter President from 2010-2014.

At the district level, Jan served

as District IV Director from 2011-2013 and attended 14 district meetings. At the state level, Jan was a participant in the Mu State Leadership Seminar, member of the Communications and By-Laws Committee, and District IV Director from 2011-2013. She attended the Southeast Regional Conference in Orlando and Savannah and the DKG International Convention in Nashville.

Jan earned a Masters of Education in Administration and Supervision from Stetson University. She holds Professional Educator Certification in Administration, Physical Education, and Mathematics. Her awards include receiving the DKG 75th Anniversary Stipend Award and serving as a panelist on the White House Committee for A Drug Free America. Her honors include Florida Secondary Physical Education Teacher of the Year in 1991, New Smyrna Beach High School Teacher of the Year in 2011, and Five Star Conference Volleyball Coach of the Year.

Marilyn C. Terry

In 1984, Marilyn Terry was initiated as a DKG member into **Lambda Chapter**. She served on the following committees: Communications, Membership, Nominations, Yearbook, and Finance. Her offices included Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Second Vice-President, and Chapter President from 1994-1996. Since 1990, she regularly attends district meetings and presented a workshop in 2004.

At the state level, Marilyn attends most state meetings and participated in the Mu State Leadership Seminar in 1995. She served on the Headquarters Committee which she chaired from 2007-2009. She also was a member of the Personnel and World Fellowship Committees.

Marilyn attended the Southeast Regional Conference in Charleston, Atlanta, Biloxi, Charlotte, Williamsburg, New Orleans, Little Rock, and Orlando. She also attended DKG International Conventions in Nashville, Toronto, Little Rock, Minneapolis, San Diego, New York City, and Nashville. Marilyn earned her Bachelor of Arts in Business Education, Master of Arts in Vocational and Adult Education, and Ed.S. in Curriculum and Instruction, Vocational Education from University of South Florida.



Her honors include being named Polk County Vocational Educator of the Year in 1992, Auburndale High School Teacher of the Year in 1993, Future Business Leaders of America Hall of Fame in 1998. Marilyn retired in 2006 after thirty-five years of teaching. She is married to Elder Wallace Murphy, and they have a son Randall Terry, daughter Regina Terry Stone, 8 grandchildren, and 3 great grandchildren.

Chapters Sharing Their Vision



District II Director Sam Wright presents a beautiful cake with pictures of the twelve DKG Founders to **Alpha Rho Chapter President Rae Jean James** at a chapter meeting.



Beta Phi Chapter in Tallahassee kicked off the 2017 - 2018 year with an Ice Cream Social and Birthday celebration on Sunday, August 27th. What a jam-packed, fun-filled time as **Beta Chi Chapter** accepted five candidates for membership! The chapter was joined by the Ladies of Lastinger, a Southern Scholarship Foundation House on the campus of Florida State University. Beta Phi supports the house by packing their pantry with non-perishable food, paper products and cleaning supplies. The generosity of their members filled three cars with supplies. In the photo above, **Beta Phi President Sharon Simmons** joins **Shirley Marshall and the Ladies of Lastinger House** to celebrate Pack the Pantry. Additionally, chapter members donated much needed school supplies to five local schools in Leon and Gadsden Counties. We are truly MIGHTY!

Beta Omega Chapter warmly welcomes three new members- **Cheryl Dulin, Judith Overcash,** and **Donna Douglas**. Before retiring from Seminole Middle School in Pinellas County, **Cheryl** was well-respected as a creative, caring, and dedicated science teacher. **Judith** retired from Leila Davis Elementary and now volunteers as a docent at the Dali Museum, drives a BayCare van, and works at a soup kitchen. She is very creative with pottery, watercolors, silk screen printing, and book making. **Donna** taught general and special education for 37 years, and now volunteers at Belcher Elementary and Paul B. Stephens Exceptional Student Center.



Michelle Martinez-Blanco, President of Epsilon Chapter, was delighted to present the Elvira Dopico Book Award to Christian P. Saldana, a recent graduate of Miami Sunset High School. Christian portrays those traits and qualities which emulate Elvira's life. He has a love of music and was captain of the Soul Hip Hop dance team while in high school. The team was recognized for winning many awards. As a freshmen, due to his sister's being killed by a drunk driver, Christian reinstated the SADD club. He also held an office in student government. Christian is currently attending Miami Dade College.



Delta Eta Chapter hosts four Brevard area Chapters. **District IV Director Linda Vaughn, Past State President Carrie Frye, Guest Speaker Amy Sweezey** who is a meteorologist and author; and **First Vice-President Carol Ann Casey** joined **Delta Eta Chapter President Beth Dewey**, and **Delta Eta member Susan Seimer**.



Past State President Carrie Frye speaks to **Alpha Rho Chapter** members on current legislation issues and encouraged members to become active in speaking up for education and rights of children and women. Alpha Rho officers are pictured above with Carrie.



Four Brevard Area Chapters met at Patrick Air Force Base. Pictured are guests **Carrie Frye, Carol Ann Casey, Linda Vaughn, Carol Killingsworth, Renee Bernhard, Barbara Wilcox, Theresa McDonald,** and **Beth Dewey**.

Florida DKG Educational Foundation



Ann Tikka, Ed.S.
Board of Directors
Florida Educational Foundation
AnnMT@LeeSchools.Net

The Florida DKG Educational Foundation (FLDK-GEF) encourages chapter contacts identified by chapter presidents to keep the Foundation visible to members. If your chapter doesn't have an Educational Foundation contact, select and forward the name and email address to **Merle Jones** at msjjones95@hotmail.com. This person will be the Foundation's contact to receive and share Foundation information and to encourage contributions to the Foundation to support professional development awards.

Thanks to all who have contributed to the FLDKGEF. Mu State's 2017 Convention Program listed contributors as of February 16, 2017. Several of those contributions were made in honor, or memory of, a member. When a contribution is made in honor or in memory, the Foundation sends a notice to the family.

The Educational Foundation appreciates contributions made since the last published list on February 16. Thank you to the following contributors:

Alpha Iota Chapter
Alpha Theta Chapter
Ann Tikka
Beta Chi Chapter
Carrie Frye (3)
Dixie Slater (2)
Dr. Beverly Helms
Dr. Elsie Gross
Dr. Evelyn B. Kelly
Mary Lee Erhardt



For further information or to make a contribution to the Florida DKG Educational Foundation, go to the website at <http://www.fldkgef.org> and check out the fall edition of the *Educator Express*.

Florida Ray's Poetry Corner Carolyn McGowan



Mu State Betty Thornton
Arts & Crafts Exhibit Chair
mmcdm1@aol.com
(352) 394-5336

Mu State is looking for Delta Kappa Gamma members to display their poetry in the new regular column, Poetry Corner. If you have poetry that you have written and would like to share with your Mu State sisters, please email me 3 - 5 poems for possible inclusion. Also, email me a digital photo of yourself and a short bio. Please refer to page 14 to use this issue's format as a guide.



Carolyn McGowan is not a stranger to Mu State! Having submitted her crafts in the past for the Mu State Betty Thornton Arts & Crafts Exhibit, **Carolyn McGowan** is excited to have been selected as Chair for this biennium. Previously having served Mu State as Second Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary, Meetings Treasurer, District IV Director, Program of Work Chair, and Chair/Member of several other committees, she has not missed a state meeting since 1988. She has written articles for the *Florida Rays* and presented workshops at Mu State, district meetings, and Southeast Regional Conference, and has been interviewed on television regarding educational issues. As a member of **Gamma Delta Chapter** for 35 years, she served as President for two bienniums and Membership Chair for twelve years. She resides in Clermont with Marcus, her husband of 47 years. Before retiring, Carolyn taught kindergarten and gifted at Clermont Elementary. Also, she supervised intern teachers at the University of Central Florida.



This is the second installment of Poetry Corner which will be a regular column in the Florida Rays.

In the summer issue, Nancy Benz shared a poem that she wrote about her impressions of the spring Rally in Tally in which Mu State members participated.

**Featured Poet:
Cindy Huggins**



Cindy Huggins resides in Geneva, Florida, with her husband of 47 years. She began her teaching career in Indiana where she was a graduate of Hanover College. She moved to Florida in 1973 where she obtained her M. Ed. from the now University of Central Florida, taught Middle School Language Arts for 34 years, and raised their two children. She began writing poetry in her mid forties, finding herself most inspired by nature, her Indiana roots, and special occasions. Cindy has been a DKG member of the **Beta Chi Chapter** since 1998.

Grandma and Robert Frost

Robert Frost brought Grandma and me together this morning;
I cannot tell you why I cried.
Perhaps it was seeing her notes in the margin of his biography
Making selections from a list of his poems –
Some crossed out,
Some marked “very good.”
Her words reached out to me across the years.
Her thoughts reached out through time,
And we were connected.

Frost touched something in Grandma
And in me,
A poet searching for expression of something inward yet universal
Set in the bounty of nature,
Exposing the mysteries of life,
Reminding us of “roads not taken.”

I think I have a lot of Grandma in me:
Her love of books, of words, of nature,
Of flowers in a mason jar,
Her love of learning and sharing and communing with friends.
She had a strength about her not only of frame
But of faith.
Too, she had an accepting, welcoming embrace that I had almost forgotten
Until this morning
When we embraced again on the pages of a poet.

Overlooking the Ohio

I sit on the balcony overlooking the town of Madison
And the Ohio River.
I try to drown out the sound of the cars to hear the clop of the horses' hooves,
slowly making their way down the street –
To hear the hucksters calling out their wares near the river road.
I try to block out the telephone wires and parked cars
To see the homes of an early river town –
To see the barges and paddleboats,
parading up and down the waterway.

What coursed through the veins of the early settlers –
The blood of a survivor or an adventurer?
Or, perhaps, like that of today,
Blood that encompasses the passions of both –
The need of the moment fused with the desire for more?

I find myself thinking of freedom.
Were people as free then?
Free to travel – to interact – to realize their potential?
How much did distinctions of class, color, gender, and education
Regulate and restrict?
Could it be, that knowing one's place, one's role, one's limitations
Might have been more freeing, in a sense,
Because it eliminated the need for second-guessing
And the quest for more?

No, I will not discount the Spirit of man,
Manifested throughout history and revealed through literature.
I am reminded that no matter what period in time –
No matter one's station –
The search for meaning and fulfillment and peace
Remains the same.
The blood in our veins connects one man to another –
Past, present, future –
Like the river flowing below.

Madison, Indiana

A Celebration of Life

Mary Jean Davis
Delta Chapter
Gainesville, FL
March 5, 2017



Mary Jean Davis, 80, of Gainesville, Florida, passed away peacefully on March 5, 2017, in Gainesville with her family by her side after suffering from an unexpected and devastating stroke five days earlier. She was born on April 11, 1936, in Bisbee, Arizona. Following the death of her father at an early age, her mother and family moved to Ashland, Oregon, where she spent her formative years.

Mary Jean Davis married in 1955, raised three children, and eventually settled in Gainesville in 1967. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Education from Southern Oregon College, Master's Degree in Education from Arizona State University, and Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from the University of Florida. She worked in the field of education for 41 years.

In 1968, Mary Jean began her teaching career at Littlewood Elementary School. She continued her classroom teaching with positions at Williams Elementary and Ft. Clarke Middle School. In 1983, Mary Jean was named Supervisor of Beginning Teacher and Special Programs for Alachua County—a position she would hold for 12 years. From 1995 until 1998, she served as an Assistant Principal at Westwood Middle School. In 1998, Mary Jean was named Principal

of High Springs Elementary which was a position she held until her retirement in 2003.

In 2004, Mary Jean returned as a Grant Specialist and Principal Consultant for the State of Florida. Over the next 6 years, this position took her throughout the state to assist school districts with curriculum and administrative leadership. In 2013, she was initiated into DKG.

Catherine C. Lanham
Gamma Mu Chapter
Orange Park, FL
May 10, 2017



Catherine Cantelou Lanham of Orange Park, passed away at age 88 on May 10, 2017. Born on March 25, 1929, she attended elementary and high school in Edgefield, SC, before attending Winthrop University.

Catherine was an elementary school teacher for over 30 years, spending most of her career at Orange Park Elementary in Clay County, FL. Since September of 1974, she was a member of DKG.

She had a positive influence on countless children and all of those she knew. Family and friends were Catherine's passion and delight. She loved to knit, sew, garden, cook and read. She loved her pets like they were children, too.

Jodi Nesti
Beta Mu Chapter
Middleburg, FL
July 8, 2017



Jodi Nesti, daughter of Mu State-member **Pat Litterick**, was involved in a tragic boating accident. In 2009, Jodi Nesti was initiated into **Beta Mu Chapter** where she served on the Membership Committee. Jodi was a well-loved Speech Pathologist and Chairwoman of the Thunder Bay Health Sciences Foundation's Board of Directors Thunder Bay Health Services. She was forty-two years old.

Marjean L. Therian
Alpha Rho Chapter
Ocala, FL
July 20, 2017

Marjean Therian passed away. She was past president of **Alpha Rho Chapter** and past president of her former chapter in Valencia, California.

Marjean was a very active member at the state level until health issues arose during the last few years. Even so, she continued to attend **Alpha Rho Chapter** meetings, prepare table decorations for every meeting, and assist with the agenda and any other way.

Marjean designed the cover of the program for the District II Conference to be held in February. She was a very talented and artistic individual and gave so much of herself to making Alpha Rho the chapter that it is today. She will be sadly missed by all members of the chapter.

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
 Mu State Organization
Florida Rays
 Bonnie S. Kelley, Editor
 MuStateEditor@gmail.com

Periodical Postage
Paid at Tallahassee, FL

Postmaster
Send address changes to

The DKG Society International
 PO Box 1589
 Austin, Texas 78767-1589

Florida Rays

Members are encouraged
 to email information to
 be used in the **Florida
 Rays** to Bonnie Kelley at
MuStateEditor@gmail.com

February 1.....Spring
 May 1.....Summer
 September 1.....Fall
 December 1.....Winter

Folding the **Florida Rays** reduces the cost for mailing.
 Thanks for your patience and understanding.

Information Sources

DKG Mu State Florida Website
www.dkgmustateflorida.weebly.com

DKG Mu State (FL) on Facebook

[https://www.facebook.com/
 DKG-Florida-State-Organiza-
 tion-128818413969052/](https://www.facebook.com/DKG-Florida-State-Organization-128818413969052/)

Florida (Mu State) on Twitter
@DKGMuState FL

**Florida DKG Educational
 Foundation Website**
www.fldkgef.org

**Florida DKG Educational
 Foundation on Facebook**
www.facebook.com/FLDKGEF

**Florida DKG Educational
 Foundation on Twitter**
@FLDKGEF

Chapter President

Form 6, Report of the
 Death of a DKG Member,
 is to be prepared by the
 chapter president imme-
 diately upon the death of
 a member. A copy is to be
 sent to each of the follow-
 ing:

**Membership Services
 Administration**
 P.O. Box 1589
 Austin, TX 78767
 or mem@dkg.org

Beverly Stagg
 Mu State Treasurer
bastagg@hotmail.com

Joann Higgins
 Mu State Necrology
[gammanuhiggins
 @yahoo.com](mailto:gammanuhiggins@yahoo.com)

2018 Mu State FL District Meetings

District I- March 3- Tallahassee
"Stepping Stones to Success"
 Augusta Raa Middle School

District II- February 10- Ocala
"Run for the Roses"
 Marion Technical College

District III- April 14- New Port Richey
*"Umoja- Celebrating Diversity,
 Uniting Community"*
 Marchman Technical College

District IV- March 24- Okeechobee
"Denim & Pearls"
 Indian River State College

District V- February 24- Boca Raton
"See the light; BE the Light"
 Sate Schools Institute

District VI- April 28- Port Charlette
*"DKG: Everthing We Do Matters;
 It's the Butterfly Effect!"*
 Murdock Baptist Church