

# The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

## Florida Rays



Planting, Watering and Growing Our Society

Vol. 62 No. 4

Mu State Organization of Key Women Educators

Summer 2017

### Recognitions Abound at Mu State Conference

#### Friend of Education Awards

##### Legislative Friend of Education Award: Nancy Detert

##### Commissioner Nancy Detert

served as a Sarasota County School Board member from 1988 -1992. She then served 8 years in the Florida House of Representatives and 8 more years in the Florida Senate where she was Senate Majority Whip from 2008-2010. While serving on the Education Committee in the Senate, she sponsored legislation that gave foster kids free college tuition and extended foster care from age 18 to 21. She was Florida School Boards' Association Legislator of the Year for several years and the Florida PTA's Legislator of the Year in 2013. She is now serving as the Vice-Chair of the Sarasota County Commission.



#### Achievement Award Winners

Carrie Frye was initiated into **Beta Chi Chapter** in 1994. She held many chapter offices including chapter president for two biennia. She has also served Mu State on many committees including chairman of Membership, Legislation, and Program of Work. She served as Mu State President from 2011 - 2013. On the International level, Carrie was the SE representative to the US Forum, the Conference Chair for the 2013 SER Conference in Kissimmee, and currently a member of the International Membership Committee. In 2007, she became a member of the Mu State Hall of Fame. As stated by her peers, "She is known throughout the Society for her charming manner and ability to communicate. Carrie is a problem solver, a cheerleader, and the epitome of what a DKG member should be."



##### Media Friend of Education Award: Stephanie Claytor



**Stephanie Claytor** is a video journalist for Bay News 9 working out of the Polk County office. Born in Ohio, she studied abroad and was a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in Bogota, Colombia. She has served as a reporter and weekend anchor in Kirksville, Missouri, Shreveport, Louisiana, and Albuquerque, New Mexico. She has covered stories regarding middle schools, and she even flew in a single engine plane for a story about teaching teachers about aviation. She has reported on all levels of education from elementary to university.



**Peggy DuBose** became a member of **Beta Nu Chapter** in 1981. She served on many committees, held every chapter office at least once, and served as chapter president in 1984 -1986 and 1986 -1988. She has attended many State and International meetings as both a member and presenter. She shares her musical talents, photographic skills, and first aid knowledge at every level. Peggy was named Florida's Star of the Southeast at the 2015 SERC in Savannah. She is described by one past Mu State president as a "perfect example of a truly dedicated DKG member and an asset to our Society. With her contributions at the chapter, district, and state levels and her involvement and participation at the regional and international levels, she is deserving of this honor."

## 2015 - 2017 Mu State Officers

### President

**Gerry Hacker**  
pianosteel@hotmail.com

### First Vice-President

**Carol Ann Casey**  
caseyca@bellsouth.net

### Second Vice-President

**Dr. Nancy Henning**  
the\_hennings@yahoo.com

### Recording Secretary

**Roxanne Berger**  
roxanne.berger45@gmail.com

### Corresponding Secretary

**Jan Stevens**  
hannahlucy13@aol.com

### Parliamentarian

**Fay Murphy**  
FayMurph@aol.com

### Immediate Past

### Mu State President

**Merle Jones**  
msjjones95@hotmail.com

### *Florida Rays*

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The Delta Kappa Gamma Society  
International  
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## Spotlight on Florida Mu State Members



**Florida DKG member April Fleetwood**, a Doctoral student at the University of Florida in Curriculum, Teaching & Teacher Education, was the recipient of one of the 12 scholarships that the International Scholarship Committee selected earlier this year. This Florida DKG member was awarded **The Eunah Temple Holden Scholarship**. Since Eunah was one of Florida's state presidents before becoming International President, that makes this scholarship to April extra special.

**Scholarship Chair Beverly Kelley** announced that one Mu State Scholarship was awarded this year to **Jennifer Tooley** from Middleburg, FL. Jennifer, from **Beta Mu Chapter**, is working on her Masters in Special Education from St. Leo University.



**Terri Whitacre**, director of Food & Nutrition Services for the 20 public schools of Charlotte County, has introduced "summer meals on wheels" through the school system's Champ's Café. Champ's on Wheels or "COW" is a converted bus with seats and tables inside and an awning outside for hot food to be served at satellite locations. The outreach program of the Summer Food Service Program will provide free, healthy meals,

as well as an opportunity for the local law enforcement to meet and greet children at the designated food service stops. Terri is a member of **Gamma Nu Chapter**.

**Three educators from Gamma Theta Chapter** were named 2016-2017 Teachers of the Year. **Glyndell Presley** (left) was honored as Madison County High School's Teacher of the Year. **Cindy Vega** (center) was named the elementary PK-5 Teacher of the Year for Madison County Central School, and **Heather Welch** (right) was the recipient of Madison County Central School's Teacher of the Year for its middle grades 6-8. In addition, Cindy Vega was honored as Madison County School District's Teacher of the Year and will represent the county at the annual gala this summer in Orlando, FL.



**On March 14, Phi Chapter President Dr. Sarah Clemmons** was selected as President of Chipola College at the District Board of Trustees meeting. Previously, she had been serving as Interim President.



**Catheline Andre-Dixon's** article "**Facing the Challenges of Teaching: Words of Wisdom**" was selected for inclusion in the 2017, Volume 83-4 issue of **The Delta Kappa Gamma Collegial Exchange**. Catheline, a resident of Tamarac, FL, is a member of **Xi Chapter**.

**“Planting, Watering, and Growing our Chapters”**

*Greetings from Gerry Hacker  
Florida (Mu) State President*

**“To love what you do and to feel that it matters-  
how could anything be more fun?”  
Katherine Graham**



Mu State Sisters,

What a wonderful biennium you have given to Mu State, to your DKG organization, your sisters, and to me. It has been a pleasure and an honor to work with all of you and to experience your faith, belief, dedication, and love for each other.

As my biennium as president is coming to a close, I want you to know how much I have enjoyed our time together. I have never had such a wonderful experience, and I will always remember and appreciate each of you. One of the best things I will take with me was your work and dedication to provide such a tremendous experience for our new initiates at the 2015 Fall Workshop. That will always be a highlight of our time together. **Judith Mix**, retiring Executive Secretary, was a terrific mentor. Our **Florida Rays** and Mu State Website have been a tremendous help and provided important information for all of us. Your District Meetings were powerful and very special. The work you provided to make our Fall Workshops and April Convention successful will always be remembered, and I will always appreciate your love and dedication as you have worked together. The workshops presented were outstanding! Our Mu State chapters showed love and dedication, and they worked to provide the best for their members. Committee chairs and members did a tremendous job fulfilling ways to increase the effects of their responsibilities. I want to thank our officers and related personnel, state registrar, and treasurer who have served with outstanding assistance and dedication when I was in much need of help.

Thanks to each of you for supporting our theme of “Planting, Watering and Growing” our Chapters and Mu State. May your growth, dedication, support, and love continue. You are talented, willing to share and work together, and are “the best.” You have given me two of the best experiences and years of my life.

With my love, belief, and future support, let’s help Mu State continue to grow and show your love for all.

Blessings,

*Gerry*

Gerry B. Hacker, 2015-2017 President  
Florida (Mu) State Organization  
1216 Cordoba Ct.  
Dunedin, FL 34698  
727-742-0325  
pianosteel@hotmail.com



**“Planting, Watering, and Growing our Chapters”**

## From Florida (Mu) State First Vice-President



**Carol Ann Casey**  
**caseyca@bellsouth.net**  
**954-437-4468 (H)**  
**954-562-8948 (C)**

Once again, I want to extend a very special thank you to all of you who presented workshops at our 2017 Convention. There was a little something for everyone. You all did a fabulous job!

All who attended gleaned something from the sessions you offered. Our members that were not able to make it missed out on some really great learning, fun-filled, and inspiring sessions.

It was wonderful to see how our Mu State sisters were willing to share their passions, talents, and expertise with us. Along with the breakout sessions, some of our sisters displayed their gifts in the Betty Thornton Arts and Crafts Exhibit. We have so much talent here in Mu State! Thank you for sharing it with us.

As we look to the beginning of a new biennium, we would like to see the caliber and variety of our workshops continue to attract our sisters. This is where we need your help. We would like to know what kinds of workshops you would like to have offered that will help enrich you to leave fulfilled and uplifted.

Please email either **Dr. Nancy Henning** at the\_hennings@yahoo.com, or **Carol Ann Casey** at caseyca@bellsouth.net to let us know what kind of workshops you would like offered at Fall Workshop. I know I would like to see a workshop dealing with autism. I believe there is a real need for this. Some of you might like a session to destress, calm, or energize. Others might be looking for a Make and Take craft or classroom activities packet workshop. What about a brain game that is techy style? Ideas are

endless. You tell us. We'll make it happen. Remember, our sixth purpose is "to stimulate the personal and professional growth of members, and to encourage their participation in appropriate programs of action." Nancy and I are looking forward to hearing from you.

## Finding the Leader in You... at the Jesslyn McBride Leadership Seminar



**Stephanie (Sam) McCartney King**  
**Member, Leadership Seminar**  
**gammanuking@gmail.com**

During the April Mu State Convention, I had the pleasure of asking attendees if they had ever attended the Leadership Seminar. If the answer was no, I asked them to consider going and to apply right then and there.

Interestingly, many attendees told me that they had heard of the Seminar, knew someone who had attended, were told that it was a wonderful life changing experience, and that they should try to attend.

Everyone that attends this seminar will tell you that it's worth giving up four days, June 24 - 27, 2018, to spend at the Lake Mary Marriott with other DKG Sisters from around the state.

After attending, you will have more confidence, knowledge, and your family will grow to include the thirty plus sisters that you will know on a first name basis. This is what makes those that have previously attended want to encourage you to attend. You may even notice that Leadership graduates have a glow of confidence that they share in their daily lives with others.

The registration form is on the Mu State website under FORMS. The \$150 registration fee is paid after you are accepted, and many chapters put this in their budget and pay the fee for you. Today is the perfect time to sign up because you can never be too young or old to attend.



## Reflections of Mu State Convention April 28 - 30, 2017

**Nicki Viale, President  
Alpha Omega Chapter  
nicki.viale@palmbeach-  
schools.org**

As a chapter president, my second Mu State Convention experience certainly fit into this biennium's theme. Compared to my previous newcomer status, as a returning attendee there was a level of comfort reconnecting and sharing stories with other district sisters who were now familiar faces! This is the reason why it is imperative that DKG members participate in state, regional, and international meetings to obtain the full impact of our society's reach. Since involvement is key, I was quite pleased to have three additional sisters from our chapter in attendance.

A consensus of positive comments was heard all around over the awe inspiring showcase of creativity at the Betty Thornton Arts and Crafts Exhibit. Especially heartfelt were the tiny, beautiful, and thoughtful infant burial outfits sewn from donated wedding gowns and donated as an expression of love.



One of the workshops presented, **Members Matter: Something for Everyone**, was a standout with solid ideas and resource materials to strengthen and nurture our chapters by providing support for 4 groups of membership. Another workshop of note as expressed by several sisters was the **Top Ten Travel Destinations for Your Bucket List**.

We truly appreciate the hard work of all the ladies who planned, created, and executed all the activities and events at the convention. This biennium's Mu State Convention will certainly have an impact on our future efforts of "Planting, Watering and Growing our Society and Chapters!"



## DKG Proposed Amendment



**Carolyn Rants, Chair  
DKG Ad Hoc Election Committee  
carolyn@rants.net**

I am the chair of the Ad Hoc Election Committee that is bringing proposed amendments to the 2018 International Convention to enable convention attendees to vote for international officers. Help us get this information about workshops on the election process at regional conferences by including the article below in your state publications.

*"Hear Ye! Hear Ye!  
Attend an International Convention!  
Approve the proposed election amendments  
to the governing documents!  
As a Convention Attendee in 2020,  
you would be able to cast YOUR vote  
for international officers."*

As a result of a motion at the Nashville International Convention, **President Carolyn Pittman** appointed an ad hoc committee to review the work of the 2012 - 2014 Ad Hoc Election Process Committee and propose amendments to the Constitution and International Standing Rules to enable convention attendees to vote for officers.

In order for attendees to vote for the officers in 2020, the governing documents must be amended at the upcoming 2018 convention in Austin, Texas.

*Attend a workshop  
about the election process  
at your regional conference!  
Learn the difference  
between Delegate, General Election,  
and Convention Election options.  
Cast your vote  
for the proposed amendments!  
(2018 in Austin)*



## World Fellowship- Offering Sunshine and Hope through Excellence in Education

**Myrna J. Santos, Mu State World Fellowship Chair  
International World Fellowship Committee**

We were deeply honored to have World Fellowship recipient, Dr. Joannie Bewa, with us to share her thoughts at the Executive Board Meeting of our Spring Convention. Joannie Marlene Bewa is a physician, a global advocate, and a Leader from the Benin Republic. Joannie has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship, and she is currently a Master in Public Health Program candidate at the University of South Florida. Passionate about public service, she has dedicated the past 10 years of her life to her community. Dr. Bewa is the founder and CEO of the Young Beninese Leaders Association (YBLA), and she was featured on Melinda Gates' list of six influential women.



Featured among the \*Top 30 Most Inspirational Africans under 30\* by Forbes Magazine Africa in 2016, she was awarded the Global Achievement award by the University of South Florida (USF World) and the Delta Kappa Gamma World Fellowship in 2016. Her talk was both inspirational and motivational. It was a privilege to have her speak to us! Without your contributions to World Fellowship, Joannie would not be speaking at the podium. No money is ever taken from your dues as DKG Members for the World Fellowship cause. Our Chance Drawing Raffle Table demonstrates one example of the activities that we do to raise funds.

The World Fellowship Committee would like to thank each and every one who has contributed to our goal of being able to provide scholarships which have been given to some amazing women! They will bring their education back to add to the betterment of their countries, and they can now move forward in a challenging world, knowing that they are educated, have become self-sufficient, and self-assured.

The Following Chapters have gone above and beyond this goal and they have been awarded the World Fellowship Silver and Gold Awards. These Awards were given in Greek alphabetical order.



**Silver Award~ Gamma Theta  
Gold Award~ Alpha Pi  
Gold Award~ Beta Mu  
Gold Award~ Beta Nu  
Gold Award~ Beta Sigma  
Gold Award~ Lambda  
Gold Award~ Xi  
Gold Award~ Pi**



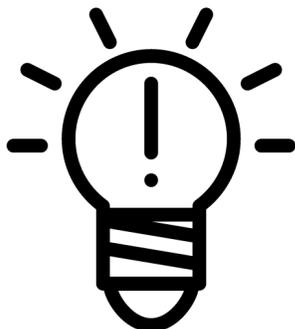
Without your support, none of the dreams and aspirations of these remarkable women could, or would, come true! "Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide" is a statement that has become a reality of life.



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS  
**DELTA KAPPA GAMMA™**

Call for Workshop Presentations  
 Mu State Fall Workshop:  
 September 22 – 23, 2017  
 Orlando Marriott Lake Mary

It might be early summer,  
 but Fall Workshop will be here before we know it!



It is time to start thinking about how you can share your talents and passions for your special areas of interest in the form of workshop sessions at Mu State's Fall Workshop / Exec. Board Meeting on either Friday evening, September 22nd or Saturday

morning, September 23rd.

Every time I see our Mu State members sharing their talents, ideas, and knowledge with their DKG sisters I get excited. We are looking for your help to provide a variety of workshops such as "make and take" sessions, an exercise, relax or stretch session, your travels, technology, nutrition, other hobbies or special interests, new teaching and educational techniques on the horizon, or just some oldie but goodie techniques that have been updated. Have you published a book recently that you would like to share with us? What is on the legislative or political scene that we need to be informed about? You might even want to recommend someone to present on a topic of interest. These are just a few ideas. I know you can come up with many more. We are also looking forward to training and information sessions provided by our Mu State committees and the District Directors as they make final preparations for the upcoming district meetings in 2018.

What would you like to share?

**DON'T WAIT! SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL TODAY!  
 WE NEED YOU!**

Deadline date for submitting proposals for Fall Workshop is Friday, July 28, 2017. Proposals may be obtained from this issue of the **Florida Rays**, the Mu State website, or me. If you have any questions, please contact:

**Dr. Nancy Henning**  
 the\_hennings@yahoo.com  
 850-878-7479 home  
 850-510-2631 cell

**From the Desk  
 of the Executive Secretary**



**Judith Mix**  
**[mixjutom@embarqmail.com](mailto:mixjutom@embarqmail.com)**

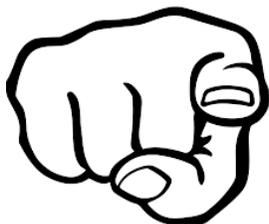
This will be the last article for me to write "From the Desk of the Executive Secretary." For my family and me, the time has come for a change. I will treasure my memories of being your Executive Secretary. It has been my pleasure and privilege to work with all of you.

I would like to thank the Personnel Committee for recommending me to the Executive Board, and the Executive Board for approving my appointment as Executive Secretary. I would also like to thank the chapter presidents for their keeping me up to date with members' contact information, completing the Chapter Reports, and responding to the communications that were sent to them. I have willingly and happily responded in a timely manner to all requests that I have received from any member, and I will miss this exchange. I will always be available to answer questions from members.

One of the great things about DKG is that we are all encouraged to try new directions and to have the support of DKG members when undertaking new endeavors. I have learned many new things being your Executive Secretary. If something was asked of me, I said, "Yes, of course," even if I had no idea how to do it, and then I found a way to do it. So you have taught me many new things.

I know you will give your support to **Carrie Frye** and other Executive Secretaries to follow, and they will continue to work with all of the members. Again, thank you for the wonderful memories, the many friendships, and the opportunity to have served as your Executive Secretary.

Till we meet again . . .



**The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International  
Mu State Fall Workshop / Executive Board Meeting  
September 22 - 23, 2017  
Orlando Marriott Lake Mary**

**Workshop Proposal**

Each workshop will be 50 minutes in length. There will be three sessions.

Session 1	Friday, September 22, 2017	7:00 – 7:50 p.m.
Session 2	Saturday, September 23, 2017	10:15 – 11:05 a.m.
Session 3	Saturday, September 23, 2017	11:15 a.m. – 12:05 p.m.

Presenter(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Information**

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Best time to reach me: \_\_\_\_\_

Workshop Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description or outline of your workshop: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Equipment needed, if any:  
(WE PREFER PRESENTERS BRING THEIR OWN EQUIPMENT.)

LCD W/Sound

Room Setup (if possible):  Theater Style     Classroom Style (with tables)     Screen

Availability for Presenting:  Friday     Saturday     Both     Either  
Note: Internet service not available in meeting rooms. You may bring your "Hotspot."

**Deadline for submitting proposal: Friday, July 28, 2017**

Send proposal to: Dr. Nancy Henning, 2903 Cross Creek Circle, Tallahassee, FL, 32301  
or  
the\_hennings@yahoo.com



**Mu State Fall Workshop / Executive Board Meeting  
September 22 - 23, 2017  
Orlando Marriott Lake Mary  
Registration Form**

***“Celebrate Our Golden Girls”***

***Come, recognize, and celebrate our Golden 50+ Years DKG Mu State Sisters!***

Please print or type one name per form:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please check all that apply:

Member     First time attending a state meeting     Current Chapter President  
 Past State President     State Officer or Related Personnel: ( \_\_\_\_\_ )  
 District Director     State Committee Chairman: (Name of Committee) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special dietary needs (please indicate): \_\_\_\_\_

Registration: \$60.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
(Includes Luncheon)

Make check payable to: Delta Kappa Gamma  
Check # \_\_\_\_\_

**As a courtesy, please register by September 18, 2017.**

Send to: Pat Eckstein  
6939 Sylvan Woods Drive  
Sanford, FL 32771  
Phone: 407-947-0824  
Email: pateckstein@yahoo.com

No refunds after September 19, 2017  
Social Hour (Dessert and Beverage)

Please check if you plan to attend: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Note: Unless you indicate below, your attendance at this meeting gives permission for your photo and contact information, (if needed) to be used in the **Florida Rays** or any DKG publication.

No, I do not want my photo, or contact information, used in the **Florida Rays** or any DKG publication.

Orlando Marriott Lake Mary  
1501 International Parkway  
Lake Mary, Florida 32746

Group Reservation  
Delta Kappa Gamma or DKG  
September 22 - 23, 2017

Phone: 407-995-1100 or 800-380-7724

On-line booking link: Book your group rate for **Delta Kappa Gamma Fall Workshop**

Rates: Single, Double, Triple or Quad = \$115.00 (Rooms rates will also include tax)

Each reservation must be guaranteed with a first night's deposit or major credit card.

Please specify the group name to receive your group rate.

**Reservations cut-off date is: September 1, 2017.**

Any reservations after that date will be subject to availability.

Refund Policy: Cancellations, no shows or early departures without 24 hour advance notice will result in forfeiture of one night's deposit or a charge of one night's stay to a credit card.

**Directions from Turnpike:**

Take I-4 exit, Exit 259 Orlando/Tampa  
Merge onto I-4E toward Downtown Orlando  
Take CR-46A Exit, Exit 101A toward Sanford/Heathrow  
Turn left onto HE Thomas Jr. Pky. CR-46A W  
Turn left onto International Pky.  
Turn left onto Heathrow Center Lane

**Directions from I-95:**

Take I-95 to Exit 223 (Sanford/Mims)  
Head west on Rt. 46  
Turn left onto International Pky.  
Turn left onto Heathrow Center Lane

## Florida DKG Members Encouraged to Subscribe to the DKG International Blogs!



**Debra Graff, Chair  
Florida (Mu) State Communications & Publicity  
mustatecommunications-  
committee@gmail.com**

Have you ever wondered what **Dr. Annie Webb Blanton** might be saying about DKG in 2017? Amazingly, Annie is blogging to share thoughts about keeping our Society moving forward! Annie's blog is one of the new features of the "DKG International Uniblog."

A blog is a regularly updated website or web page. It is typically run by an individual or small group, and it is written in an informal or conversational style. The DKG International uniblog is a blogging page which allows for quick access to all of the blogs published by International Committees in one central location. The tabs located at the top of the blog page will allow quick access to specific committee posts and allows members to find topics of interest within the uniblog.

Florida DKG members can access the International Committee uniblog from the [dkg.org](http://dkg.org) home page. Look for the "Blog" button located above the survey. Once there, members will have access to blogs from the International Committees including Communi-

cations & Publicity, Constitution, Finance, Membership, Educational Excellence, and of course, Annie Webb Blanton. Check out the uniblog to find current information and inspiration! If you wish to follow the blog by email, then visit <http://dkgis.blogspot.com/> and scroll down the page to enter your email address in the space provided on the right side of the screen.

## Florida Reception at Southeast Regional Conference



**Carrie Frye  
Past President  
cfrye@att.net**

Florida attendees of the Southeast Regional Conference in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, are invited to a reception at which our outgoing and incoming state presidents will be acknowledged.



The reception will be held on Thursday, July 20, from 4:45 - 6:15 PM. All attendees will be notified of location of reception upon arrival at the conference.

For questions, contact Carrie Frye at [cfrye@att.net](mailto:cfrye@att.net).

## 2015 - 2017 Chapter



**Communication Award  
Congratulations  
to the following 15 chapters that earned  
the Communication  
Award:**

### District I

Alpha Kappa  
Delta Theta

### District II

Alpha Sigma

### District III

Beta Iota  
Beta Theta  
Delta Gamma

### District IV

Beta Chi  
Beta Nu  
Beta Sigma  
Gamma Delta

### District V

Beta Alpha  
Pi  
Xi

### District VI

Beta Upsilon  
Gamma Nu



## Ten Reasons I Love DKG

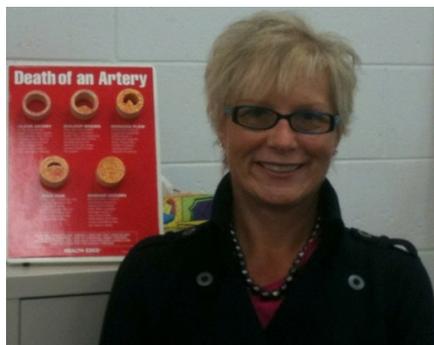
**Ann Blossfield, Membership Chair**  
**blosda@msn.com**



I have been a member of DKG for 36 years and during this time the organization has become a major portion of my life. There are many reasons I love DKG, but in the interest of brevity, I will list only ten of them. Perhaps you can compare your list to mine. It is sometimes good to stop and examine the reasons we devote our time and efforts to those activities we cherish. I feel certain that this excellent organization has had a powerful and enriching impact on my life. I hope it has on yours as well.

1. The friendships I have experienced with women in my chapter as well as those from other parts of my state, region, country and even other countries in which DKG is established - I can think of many women who have touched my life who I would otherwise never have known.
2. The places I have visited when I have attended meetings beyond my own area - I love to travel and have enjoyed many lovely cities while attending meetings in not only my own country, but beyond the United States as well. Now there is even a Go Ahead Tours component which offers tours for DKG members and their friends. Two great tours this year are one in June to Spain and Portugal and another in October which travels to the northeast for a view of the spectacular fall foliage.
3. The DKG Leadership Growth Seminars in which I have participated both as a committee member and as a participant - I learned so many things about myself, as well as about my family, friends and coworkers. I learned about Parliamentary Procedure, Time Management, Conflict Resolution and many more topics which have proven valuable to me both personally and professionally over the years.
4. The opportunities I have had to be an officer at both the chapter and state level as well as to serve on several international committees have enhanced my leadership skills.
5. The availability of multiple insurance plans through several very reputable companies - These include Boon Chapman – cancer insurance plan, hospital plus plan, surgical assistance plan, excess major medical plan travel insurance plan, life insurance plan. Long term care insurance, AIM professional liability policy, ID Theft Assistance and even VPI Pet Insurance are available.
6. I am proud to know that the DKG Educational Foundation has helped educators travel to meetings to enhance their expertise through the Cornet Professional Development Awards. It has also helped educators carry out projects to help students throughout the world.
7. I am also proud that the organization provides scholarships to help members work to complete post graduate degrees. It is also great to know that DKG supports women educators in other countries pursue post graduate degrees through World Fellowship grants.
8. I am proud that DKG works along with UNICEF to help Schools for Africa. Here we are helping to build schools and provide teaching materials and teachers to children in far-away lands.
9. I am happy to see that members of DKG are communicating with legislators in both Florida and Washington to encourage them to improve learning environments for both teachers and students.
10. The many ways I have interacted with community groups to help individuals in my community - These activities have made me feel like a more valuable member of the community in which I live.

Through DKG, members can “Connect, Live, Educate with enthusiasm, and Realize their potential.”



## Meet the First Two Florida DKG Educational Foundation Award Recipients

**Ann Tikka, Ed.S.**  
Board of Directors,  
Florida Educational Foundation  
[AnnMT@LeeSchools.Net](mailto:AnnMT@LeeSchools.Net)

The first two Florida DKG Educational Foundation Awards for professional development were presented at the Florida (Mu) State Organization Convention luncheon on Saturday, April 29, 2017, to **Dr. Stephanie L. Carey** and **Cara Dunford Holt**. Congratulations to each of you!

**Dr. Carey**, Assistant Research Professor, Engineering, at University of Florida, and a member of Beta Theta Chapter in Tampa, will use her award to attend the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO) World Congress. This event allows professionals from around the globe to present and learn about the latest scientific research, innovative technologies and clinical advances to help people using a prosthesis, orthosis, mobility or assistive devices. Dr. Carey will give two presentations concerning research projects that are aimed to improve prosthetic design and training. Her research projects are part of the Center for Assistive, Rehabilitation & Robotics Technologies (CARRT). CARRT employs between 15-20 students, both undergraduates and graduates, every year. These students, as well as the 40-50 students that enroll in the Rehabilitation Engineering course at USF each fall, will benefit from her experience learning and presenting at the ISPO World Congress. Stephanie also hopes to gain a better understanding of the international perspective concerning prosthetics and assistive technologies. Congratulations, Stephanie! We wish you the best and would be honored to hear about the ISPO 16th World Congress when you return!

**Cara Dunford Holt**, Alpha Rho Chapter, Ocala, is a Reading Coach at Yankee-town School, a Pre K-8 school. She requested the funds required to attend a hands-on writing workshop in Orlando. Kagan Cooperative Learning - The Writing Process will demonstrate ways to use interactive Kagan Structures to enhance each stage of the writing process. Statistics indicate that pre-writing experiences boost motivation to write and positive peer response groups motivate students to edit and re-write. A variety of presentation structures make publishing a non-threatening opportunity to share. Cara will have the chance to learn Kagan's foolproof techniques that successfully integrate writing across the curriculum and will experience the power of simple peer feedback techniques including Peer Response Gambits, to motivate and re-energize student writing. This experiential writing workshop will give Cara dozens of strategies for the eight stages of the writing process that will change the student perspective of writing to an opportunity instead of an assignment. Cara will conduct a professional development session for her colleagues during back to school week in the fall and will share what she learns at a District Reading Coaches meeting to allow other Reading Coaches to share with their schools. Congratulations, Cara!! This seems to be a fabulous opportunity to enhance writing instruction for your fortunate students!



Don't be left out! All employed Florida educators are eligible to receive a FLDKGEF award for professional development. However, competition is stiff! Applications for the Foundation's 2018 awards of up to \$1,500 will be available on the Florida DKG Educational Foundation website at <http://FLDKGEF.org> on September 1 and are due on February 1, 2018. Award winners will be notified by the end of February and may attend an activity between April 1 and December 31, 2018. A donation form is also available on the site. Your support is appreciated.



Go Ahead



# FALL FOLIAGE TOUR: VERMONT TO MASSACHUSETTS

*with The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International*



**8 DAYS | OCTOBER 8, 2017**

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**GROUP COORDINATOR CONTACT:**

Karen Crumley  
Group Number: 67954919  
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## Chapters Sharing Their Vision



Dr. Rhonda S. Work, a member of **Alpha Kappa Chapter** was recognized as a 'Silver Star' for her volunteer work at the Tallahassee Senior Center for Active Adults. She had a successful and meaningful career as a speech pathologist, and then 22 years ago made the momentous decision to retire "I took two weeks to do nothing. Then I said, this is not

my life. I began volunteering at the Junior Museum- and from there, it all blossomed," Rhonda recalls.

Rhonda actively volunteers with a wide range of local organizations, including the Tallahassee Museum of History and Natural Science, St. Francis Wildlife Association, St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, LeMoyné Art Foundation, Tai Chi Society, Delta Gamma Honor Society for Women Educators, Trinity United Methodist Church, and the FSU Coastal and Marine Lab. When she isn't volunteering, doing Tai Chi, singing in her church choir, reading, or taking care of her two cats and dog, she is traveling.



On Saturday, March 25, **Beta Phi Chapter** held a luncheon at the University Center Club in Tallahassee. The speaker was local attorney Robin Hasler-Thompson, educating the fifty-three attendees about human trafficking and ways to identify and provide assistance to victims. Robin is also a consultant and has worked for over two decades in the field of public policy, specifically on the issue of violence against women. She recently chaired the Tallahassee/Leon County Commission on the Status of Women. There were twenty-five DKG members attending, from four area chapters; Alpha Kappa, Gamma Eta, Beta Phi, and Iota. Other guests represented the educational communities of FSU, FAMU, TCC, Flagler College, the Southern Scholarship Foundation at FSU, students from FSU, graduate students from FAMU, and the faith community.

In February, members of **Beta Xi** met at the Florida Power and Light Company's Manatee Lagoon. They first had a short meeting while eating a picnic lunch and then it was off to observe the manatee and learn



all about them. The manatee congregate here in the colder months of the year due to the warm water that flows into the intracoastal waterway.



**Gamma Nu's Second VP Mary Jo Holleran** is the sponsor of Englewood's Lemon Bay High School's Friends of Fisher House, which is dedicated to raising local awareness and funding toward the Fisher House Foundation's mission to serve military personnel, veterans and their families. "We partner with

local organizations that provide services and events for active duty military personnel and for veterans who currently live in our community." Their fundraising efforts to date of \$6500 have assisted Tampa's James A. Haley Veterans Hospital Fisher House. Fisher Houses are located near major military and VA medical centers nationwide, where there is never a lodging fee.



In March, two **Beta Xi** members, **Nancy Bentz** and **Deane Ugalde**, went to Tallahassee to join other Delta Kappa Gamma members from around the state for a rally to support the Equal Pay bill and to meet with

## Chapters Sharing Their Vision

state senators and representatives for discussion of educational concerns. Our members were able to speak with fourteen legislators and legislative aides during this time. Though they were not happy with everything they heard, they felt as though their time had been productive.



**Gamma Nu Chapter** warmly welcomed (front row from left to right) Dorothy Moore, Sandy Bruglio, B.J. Richards, Susan Kickbush; and (back row) Janet Bell, Anne Marie McNamara, Nancy Santiago, Leah O'Brien, Chris Zimmer, and Teresa Dailey at April's initiation service, while celebrating the chapter's anniversary of 41 years..



In the spirit of Teacher Appreciation Week, the **Gamma Zeta Chapter** hosted a May 4th after school event at the popular Bridge Street Coffee & Tea Shop in LaBelle. Local retired teachers were invited for refreshments and fellowship with the DKG members who are currently teaching. Community Outreach member **Lisa Horton** chaired the event and presented a short program. Lisa shared the stories of her parents, both career teachers and then closed with thoughts from a book ***Simple Truths of Appreciation*** by Barbara Glanz. She invited the audience to remember a teacher that had been influential in their lives and to perhaps share those thoughts with that special teacher. Retired Clewiston teacher Dan Fairchild was the winner of a door prize book, ***Heart of a Teacher*** by Simple Truths Books.



Mu Chapter of Citrus County recently held its third "Class Act" Fashion Show at the Inverness Golf and Country Club. Shown at the show's finale are the models, their escorts, the MC, the makeup and hair design team, and the boutique owner who provided the resale fashions. The show raised money for Mu Chapter's educational causes and scholarships/grants which will be available to local adult women who are currently enrolled in college seeking their teaching degrees. Models were community role model women of varying colors, shapes, and ages, including our district school superintendent and honorary Mu Chapter member Sam Himmel.



**Phi Chapter** held its January meeting with an informative program on Preventing Identity Theft and also recognized college and administration level members for their contributions to the field of education. Pictured above are **Dr. Sarah Clemmons** with honorees: **Deanie DeFelix, Dr. Amanda Clark, Tonya Gardner, Dr. Pamela Rentz, and Marcia Duggar.**

**Past Mu State President Carrie Frye** sponsored new member **Sharon Carr** to **Gamma Delta Chapter**. The are pictured at a chapter meeting. DKG warmly welcomes Sharon, not only as a chapter member, but also as a state and international member.





*Below is the first poem featured in a regular column entitled "Poetry Corner" written by a Florida (Mu) State member.*

### **We Rose and Shall Rise Nancy Bentz, Beta Xi**

Since 1848 women have fought for equal rights for themselves and children.

And when we rose  
the Women's Rights Movement  
was formed,  
We Rose  
The Women's Rights Convention  
organized,  
We Rose  
The National American Woman  
Suffrage Association was formed,  
We rose  
The National Association of Col-  
ored Women emerged,  
We rose  
And aROSE the National Wom-  
en's Trade Union League  
We rose,  
And Susan B. Anthony lead,  
We rose,  
The Women's Bureau of the  
Department of Labor was estab-  
lished,  
We rose,  
The 19th Amendment to the  
Constitution, was added granting  
women the right to vote  
We rose,  
The National Council of Negro  
Women was formed,  
We rose  
The Daughters of Bilitis emerged,  
We rose,  
We rose  
The League of Women Voters

emerged,  
We rose  
The Equal Pay Act was passed,  
We rose,  
Formed the Commission on Status  
of Women,  
We rose  
Fought and got Civil Rights Act  
and the Equal Employment Oppor-  
tunity Commission  
We rose  
Became owners of newspapers,  
bookstores, cafes  
We rose,  
The National Organization for  
Women was formed,  
We rose,  
President Lyndon Johnson's  
affirmative action policy of 1965  
to cover discrimination based on  
gender completed,  
We rose  
Passed 'no fault' divorce and com-  
mon property laws,  
We rose,  
Fought for rights to privacy,  
We rose,  
Got support for Child Care Centers  
We rose  
Got Equal access to education  
programs for our daughters.  
Our Founders rose,  
Delta Kappa Gamma was formed.  
  
For seven generations before us  
we ROSE.  
  
So now,  
  
We rise,  
For protection for women in job  
discrimination and sexism  
We rise,  
For fair hiring practices  
We rise,  
For affordable child care,  
We rise,  
For equal Pay  
We rise,  
For fair employment rights,  
We rise,  
For equality in the judicial system,  
We rise,  
For equal voices in media,  
We rise,  
For equal consumer credit prac-  
tices,

We rise,  
For equal pregnancy laws in the  
workplace,  
We rise,  
For equal representation in the  
legislature,  
We rise,  
To punish employers for sexual  
harassment,  
We rise,  
To Tighten penalties for victims of  
rape or domestic violence,  
We rise,  
For equal opportunities in college  
programs,  
We rise,  
For equal access for girls and  
women in athletic programs,  
We rise,  
For penalties for violating the  
Family Leave Medical Act,  
We rise,  
To prohibit disciplining someone  
for complaining about sex-based  
discrimination,  
We rise,  
For fair pay in the workplace  
We rise,  
For the right to serve in any ca-  
pacity in the armed services,  
We rise,  
Against sex trafficking,  
We rise  
For financial liberation  
We rise,  
To close the wage gap,  
We rise,  
To protect our retirement system,  
We rise,  
To care for all of our children  
against bullying or cyber-bullying  
We rise,  
To ensure equal access to equal  
education for the young, the old  
and any in between,  
Together,  
WE RISE!  
  
In the words of Margaret Mead,  
Never doubt that a small group of  
thoughtful committed citizens can  
change the  
world. Indeed, it's the only thing  
that ever has.  
  
Now,  
Let our ROSE RISE!



This poem was written for the Mu State DKG legislative rally held in Tallahassee, FL, on March 14-15, 2017. It was written to motivate members in attendance to speak out to their elected officials in support of women, children, and education. The poem depicts the history of legislation that has passed in support of these groups. The second part of the poem depicts the work we must continue to do.



**Nancy Bentz** dedicated this poem to **Carrie Frye** who was responsible for organizing Mu State's Rally in Tally and has been an encouraging mentor to me and others.



## Florida Educators Win DKG Educational Foundation Awards During this Biennium

**Ann Blsfield**  
DKG Educational Foundation  
[blosda@msn.com](mailto:blosda@msn.com)

The International Educational Foundation has given over \$200,000 in Project Awards to educators from around the world during the 2015-2017 biennium. Among the recipients is **Dr. Stephanie Carey, a Beta Theta member in Tampa**, who received her second Project Award. Her current winning project is "Inspiring Middle School Students with Photovoltaic Power Generation." This highlights the fact that educators can receive more than one Project Award, as well as have a Project Award renewed. Stephanie's first Project Award was received in 2014.



During this 2015-2017 biennium the International Foundation has also given over \$100,000.00 in Cornetet Professional Development Awards (CIPD Awards) to educators around the world. Several of these were received by educators in Florida. **Christina Singh** received \$1,700 to attend a First Grade National Conference, and **Dr. Peg Dunn Snow** received \$1,200 to attend an Accelerated Traumatology Course at The Instinctual Trauma Response Training Institute. The latest CIPD Award goes to **Michelle Josey**, a Spanish Instructor from Inverness, who will be traveling to Quetzaltenago, Guatemala, this summer to attend a Health Services & Medical Spanish Program. She received \$1,845.00 to help defray the costs of her trip.

Congratulations go to each of these outstanding ladies!

The purposes of the Delta Kappa Gamma Educational Foundation are to:

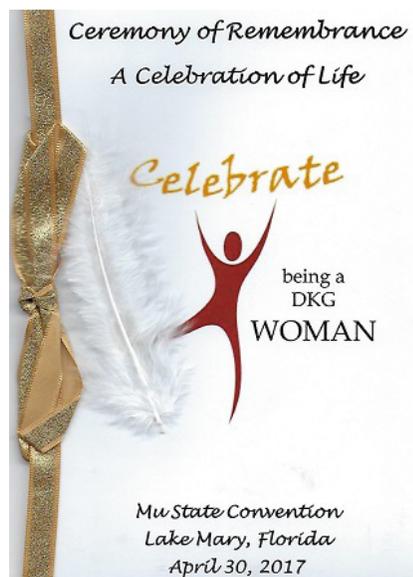
- -Support and encourage intercultural understanding
- -Encourage standards of excellence in education
- -Assist and cooperate with schools, colleges, universities, and other persons, organizations, trust funds, or foundations in support, encouragement, and improvement of education.

Since its inception in 1964, \$3.8 million has been awarded by the Foundation.

Project Awards and CIPD Grants are made possible by donations from state organizations, chapters, and individuals in honor of, or memory of, individuals. Bequests are another way that contributions can be made to the Foundation. Please consider making a contribution. By giving to the Foundation you are **Giving to Educate the World**.



## In Memorium



The above Necrology cover and cover were designed by State Necrology Chair Dr. Peg Dunn-Snow and Barbara Belyeu.

### Joann C. Balkom Gamma Omicron November 1, 2016



**Joann Balkom**, age 76, passed away on November 1, 2016, in Fort Walton Beach, FL. Originally from DeFuniak Springs, FL, she was born on August 11, 1940. In 1962, she graduated from Judson College in Marion, Alabama, where she studied biology and psychology. In 1974, she graduated from the University of West Florida with a Masters Degree in Educational Leadership. She retired from Ft. Walton Beach High after 30 years of teaching science. During her tenure, she sponsored many different clubs and organizations. She was an avid fan of the school's sport teams.

Joann was an active member of **Gamma Omicron Chapter**. Serving as Membership Chair, she was responsible for both new member induction services and new officer initiations.

### Marsha Bechtel Gamma Zeta Chapter April 19, 2017

**Marsha Diane (McKee) Bechtel** of LaBelle, FL, passed away on April 19, 2017 in Atlanta, GA, from injuries sustained in an automobile accident. She was born on November 25, 1959, in Kittanning, PA. In 1977, Marsha graduated as salutatorian of her class from Worthington High School. Marsha attended Penn State University and graduated in 1982 with a degree in Agriculture Education/ Animal Bioscience.

In 1980, Marsha got married and moved to Florida where she began her teaching career at Community Christian School in LaBelle. She taught junior high science and math until the school closed in 2007. Two years later, she became a teacher for the Hendry County School District, where she was currently teaching AP, honors, and general biology classes.

Initiated in May of 2015 into DKG, Marsha supported the **Gamma Zeta Chapter** through her active membership, attendance at chapter functions, and support of chapter projects.

She was an active member and elder at Life Ministries Church of LaBelle, in charge of children's ministries. Marsha loved working with children and animals, and spent over 25 years as 4H Leader for various programs in Hendry County.

### Wanda Rogers Beck Alpha Rho Chapter

May 3, 2017

**Wanda Rogers Beck** of Homosassa, FL, was born on April 25, 1962 and passed away on Wednesday, May 3, 2017. Mrs. Beck was a teacher at Romeo Elementary School, a 1980 graduate of Crystal River High, and a 1984 Graduate of Judson Women's College in Marion, Alabama.

### Jean Scheufler Johnson Beta Omega Chapter April 4, 2017



Jean Johnson, age 93, passed away peacefully April 4, 2017, at her bayfront home in St. Petersburg. Born in Nanping, China, to Methodist missionary parents, Jean returned as a toddler to Ohio, eventually attending Ohio Wesleyan University and Yale Divinity School. She married a fellow divinity student, and the two resided in upstate New York. In 1954, the Presbyterian Church sent them to Chiang Mai, Thailand, as fraternal workers. They remained for a decade, raising four sons there.

The family returned to the States in 1964, living in Ithaca, New York, Madison, Wisconsin, and eventually St. Petersburg, Florida. Jean worked in the Pinellas County Schools, serving as a vice principal at Boca Ciega and Northeast High Schools. Her passion was Asian handcrafts, and for a quarter century she initiated and ran a nonprofit enterprise to promote and sell imported handmade items.

**Catherine Lanham  
Beta Mu  
May 10, 2017**



Catherine Cantelou Lanham, age 88, of Orange Park, FL, was born on March 25, 1929, and passed away on May 10, 2017. Catherine attended elementary and high school in Edgefield, SC, before attending Winthrop University. She was an elementary school teacher for over 30 years, spending most of her career at Orange Park Elementary in Clay County, FL. She was initiated as a member of Delta Kappa Gamma in September of 1974, and a member of Beta Mu Chapter.

Catherine was a positive influence to 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.

**Catherine R. Norman  
Iota Chapter  
April 7, 2017**



**Catherine Norman**, age 99, from Jacksonville, FL, passed away on April 7, 2017. She was initiated

into DKG on April 1, 1949. She was a valuable active member in the chapter until her health at age 96 prevented her from participation. At this time, the family moved her from this area; however, she still continued membership as a reserve member. She was a classroom teacher, coach, and recognized by her peers as a role model and exemplar teacher.

**Emma Jeannette Smith  
Alpha Rho Chapter  
February 27, 2017**

Emma Jeannette "Emma Jean" Smith, 89, of Belleview, Florida passed away February 27, 2017 at Estelle's Hospice House Ocala, Florida. She was born on December 2, 1927 in Dunnellon, Florida. Emma Jean graduated from Ocala High School in 1945, received her Bachelor's Degree from Florida State University in 1949 and earned her Master's Degree from the University of Florida in 1962. She taught at Chiefland High School for one year and 43 years at Ocala/Forest High School where she was the Business Department Chair. She retired in 1993 after 44 years in education. Living in Belleview, Florida, she was a founding member of Alpha Rho Chapter in District 2. She enjoyed traveling and playing Bridge.

**Carol Bolling Thompson  
Alpha Eta Chapter  
March 25, 2017**

**Carol Bolling Thompson**, age 67, of Orlando, FL, passed away March 25, 2017. Carol formerly served as Assistant Principal at Corner Lake Middle School, Liberty Middle School, and Legacy Middle School in Orlando. She was a graduate of Radford University, and earned her master's degree in education from the University of Virginia. Initiated into DKG in 1988, Carol served as

Treasurer of Alpha Eta Chapter and volunteered at District IV and Mu State Meetings.

**Patricia Maxcy Wilson  
Delta Delta Chapter  
March 19, 2017**



**Patricia Maxcy Wilson**, 90, of Lake Wales, FL, died unexpectedly on March 19, 2017 at her home in Mountain Lake. Patricia was born at home on December 18, 1926, in Frostproof, FL. As a child, she and her sister rode the cattle trail alongside the other cowboys from Frostproof to Tampa accompanying their father. She attended Stetson University in Deland, FL, where she played every intramural sport available. After graduation, she and her husband moved back to Frostproof where she became very involved in the family business and the community. Initiated on October 1, 1980, Patricia was a DKG member for 37 years.

Patricia's greatest passion was her philanthropy with focus on education and athletics. In 1981, she was chosen for Stetson's Distinguished Alumni Award. In 1998, she was inducted into Stetson's Sports Hall of Fame. In that same year, she was also named Stetson University Trustee Emerita. Through her substantial donations, the Wilson Athletic Center was added in 1997, the Maxcy Residence Hall was constructed in 2006, and Patricia Wilson Softball Field was completed in 2008. She provided annual student athletic scholarships for both Stetson baseball and softball programs.

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

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### **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](http://www.dkgmustateflorida.weebly.com)

#### **DKG Mu State (FL) on Facebook**

[https://www.facebook.com/  
 DKG-Florida-State-Organization-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](http://www.fldkgef.org)

**Florida DKG Educational  
 Foundation on Facebook**  
[www.facebook.com/FLDKGEF](http://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 immediately upon the death of a member. A copy is to be sent to each of the following:

**Membership Services  
 Administration**  
 P.O. Box 1589  
 Austin, TX 78767  
 or [mem@dkg.org](mailto:mem@dkg.org)

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

### **Future Meeting Dates**

#### **2017 DKG Southeast Regional Conference**

July 19-22, 2017  
 Sheraton Myrtle Beach  
 Convention Center  
 Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

#### **Mu State Fall Workshop/ Executive Board Meeting**

September 22-23, 2017  
 Orlando Marriott Lake Mary  
 Lake Mary, FL

#### **2018 Mu State District Meetings**

District I- March 3- Tallahassee  
 District II- February 10- Ocala  
 District III- April 14- New Port Richey  
 District IV- March 24- Okeechobee  
 District V- February 24- Boca Raton  
 District VI- April 28- Murdock

#### **2018 International Convention**

J W Marriott  
 Austin, Texas  
 July 16-20, 2018