

# The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International



# Florida Rays



Vol. 61 No. 1

Mu State Organization of Key Women Educators

Fall 2015

## 88 Floridians Enjoyed 2015 Southeast Regional Conference in Savannah, Georgia



Photograph(s) are courtesy of Photographs by Jim, Floresville, Texas

What's Inside?		
Mu State SERC Photo.....1	A Dream Come True.....5	Breakout Session.....11
Mu State Officers.....2	Moving Forward.....6	Professional Development12
In Memoriam.....2	European Regional.....6	Fall Workshop Presenters.12
Greetings from Gerry.....3	Communications.....7	Leadership Seminar.....12
Executive Secretary.....4	Educational Excellence.....7	Members/Chapters.....13
New Recruitment Plan.... 4	Awards.....8	District Meetings.....14-15
DKG Ed Foundation.....5	Reflections of SERC.....8	Social Media.....16
	2015 SERC.....9	Form 6.....16
	Special FL Events.....10	Future Meeting Dates.....16

## 2015 - 2017 Mu State Officers

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### Mu State President

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## In Memoriam



**Marion W. Bowen, age 90**, died on August 15, 2015, in Jacksonville. She was born on November 21, 1924 and resided in Orange Park. Marion joined DKG in 1968 as a charter member of **Beta Mu Chapter**.



**Dorothy Beggs, 91**, of Largo, passed away August 14, 2015. As a resident of Clearwater and Largo since 1952, Dottie worked as a librarian for the Pinellas County School system until her retirement in 1986. After her retirement, she enjoyed traveling, working with her church and with the **Beta Iota Chapter** since 1980.



**Eloise Grace Eskew Coffey** of Hernando, died June 26, 2015. Eloise was born in 1938 in Indianapolis and graduated from Martinsville High School. She earned an undergraduate degree in French and English from DePaul University and a master's degree in education from Virginia Tech. She taught English and French for nearly four decades **earning numerous accolades including Hernando County Teacher of the Year**.



**Frances S. Hoffman, 95**, of Seminole, passed away May 25, 2015, and is buried in Arlington Cemetery. Born in Tampa, she



graduated from the University of Tampa with a degree in chemistry and a master's degree from Nova University. Having taught Biology and Health Science at Azalea Middle and Seminole High School, she was named Florida Biology Teacher of the Year. Initiated into DKG in 1971, Fran was a founding member of Beta Omega Chapter serving as Chapter President from 1974-1976. In 1976, she served as Chairman of the Tri-County Council.

**Anna Elizabeth Pascoe, 99**, of DeLand, passed away on March 7, 2015, at her residence of 52 years. She was born June 18, 1915, in Ottawa, IL, and graduated college from North Central College of Illinois. Anna worked in the Deland school system as a teacher and media specialist for over 30 years. Initiated in 1959, she served as president of Beta Chapter and spearheaded their History Project.



**Eleanor Murrill Sparkman, 99**, of **Kappa Chapter** passed away on November 28, 2014. Raised on a strawberry farm in Plant City, she graduated from Florida State with a teaching degree in Home Economics. Eleanor's teaching career spanned 37 years in Tampa where she was a home economics teacher, school counselor, and Dean of Girls. She retired to her mountain cabin in Franklin, NC, and later an independent retirement community in Roswell, GA.

### *Florida Rays*

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## Planting, Watering, and Growing Our Society

### Greetings from Gerry

It is exciting that you and I are part of Mu State DKG this biennium. Every member has the opportunity and responsibility to share ideas and to work and serve to make our chapters and state continue to grow. DKG and Mu State provide opportunities to enjoy fellowship and contribute as "Key Women Educators."

It is critical that we continue to help our chapters grow. This past biennium 84 chapters developed Strategic Action Plans that included membership as one of their primary goals. Let's continue to use these as we develop our society and find a place to share and use our interests and talents.

Below are two quotes that I have come to admire and use, so I hope you will find them valuable as well:

"People support what they help to create..." by K.C. Ingram

"Happiness is not attained through self-gratification but through fidelity to a worthy purpose." by Helen Keller

#### **Mu State 2015-2017 Vision:**

Stress the honor of being invited for membership in our Society, the basis of professional qualifications, leadership potential, and personal qualities to promote growth. Include members of all generations in activities and purposes of our Society.

Goals:

RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS AND RETAIN CURRENT MEMBERS  
MAKE YOUR MEETINGS FUN  
GIVE MEMBERS A PURPOSE TO ATTEND  
DEVELOP FRIENDSHIP AMONG ALL MEMBERS  
PROVIDE ACTIVITIES BETWEEN MEETINGS

I ask you to attend state, district, and chapter meetings; find, attend, and provide workshops; become involved; share your talents; develop friendships between DKG sisters; and make everyone aware of their importance and need within our society. Enjoy!

Love and blessings,  
Gerry B. Hacker, President  
Florida (Mu) State



***Planting, Watering, and Growing Our Society***

***85 Years and Beyond: Advancing Key Women Educators for Life***



## From the Desk of



**Judith Mix**  
**Executive Secretary**  
 mixjutom@embarqmail.com

Someone recommended you for membership! Has your membership had meaning for you? Are you actively looking for others to recommend for membership? This is how we increase our membership.

Is your chapter open to new ideas? Have you tried different meeting times and dates to have your meetings in order to accommodate the different needs of your members? This is one way we keep our members.

Is your chapter willing to invite other chapters to share meetings? This is one way to reach out and strengthen chapters. Chapter can invigorate and stimulate each other as they meet together. As chapters extend an invitation to other chapters they will establish relationships in their own chapter as well as in the invited chapters. Members help each other grow in leadership roles as they meet.

At the Southeast Regional Conference in Savannah this summer, the state presidents and executive secretaries met together for training and exchanging ideas. It is worth noting that the state organizations of Alabama and Georgia are planning a joint venture for their members. They are planning a weekend of "The Arts."

What creative idea do you have for engaging members beyond chapter meetings? Let me hear from you and what you accomplished. This is how we will continue to have DKG in the years to come. If there is anything I can help you with, just let me know.

## International President Lyn Schmid Has New Recruitment Plan

**Ann Blossfield, Membership**  
**Blosda@msn.com**

While chapters throughout the Society struggle for new ways to increase membership, Dr. Lyn Schmidt has a new plan that has already been successful in a number of places. Chapters can use this approach if they want a professional new way of offering membership. It involves six steps:

**Step 1:** Emphasize the honor of membership in DKG. The membership committee asks each chapter member to submit a name on a prospect card, which they provide. The committee then compiles a list of these names to present to chapter members for a vote.

**Step 2:** Each prospective member on the list is sent a letter indicating that she has been chosen for membership in this prestigious society. Important elements of this letter include the fact that she was chosen based on her stellar qualities as a teacher and approved by the chapter. Brief info on DKG and the chapter are included, as well as an invitation to an orientation meeting. The letter emphasizes the honor of membership and asks them to RSVP.

**Step 3:** Some may decline, some may call with questions and some may agree to attend. An equal number of current members are asked to attend to serve as "rose buddies" at the orientation.

**Step 4:** At the orientation, provide social time for current and prospective members and then present the Pride in the Big Picture slide show (available for download at [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org)). Current members can meet in groups with the prospective members to answer any questions. At the end of the meeting (which should last only one hour), ask them to make a decision to accept or decline membership.

**Step 5:** The current member "rose buddy" can then help complete the Chapter Member Application to obtain information about the prospective member. This application serves as the Recommendation for Membership (or Form 11) used by many chapters to obtain member information. It can also serve as a commitment for the prospective member.

**Step 6:** Invite the prospective members to the initiation ceremony with the initiation letter. Remember to plan ahead and order all necessary supplies in preparation for the ceremony.

This plan is now available on the DKG website Membership Committee page and includes complete instructions and resources. You may also contact a member of the Mu State Membership Committee for more information. (**Lori Howard, FL**, pictured with **Dr. Lyn Schmidt**.)



## The DKG Educational Foundation Keeps on Giving

The DKG Educational Foundation members have had a very busy summer. The Educational Foundation hosted a lovely Legacy of Leadership Reception at the Southeast Regional Conference in Savannah this past July. It was a great way to honor those Southeast Regional women who have served as leaders in not only their own states but regionally and internationally as well. It was a time to celebrate with food, fun and fellowship. A number of our own Mu State leaders were in attendance. In addition, The Foundation presented workshops at all the Regional Conferences, where many of the outstanding projects it has supported were highlighted.

The Educational Foundation website has had a facelift. The latest applications and information regarding projects, awards, stipends, and grants are posted. Also, there is a Facebook page. Look for [www.dkgef.org](http://www.dkgef.org) to check out all the new information.

Eleven members and three non-members received a total of \$19,362.00 in Cornet Individual Professional Development Awards following the May 1 deadline. The complete list is posted on the Foundation website, as is the updated application. The maximum award is \$2,000.00 and the money can be used to help educators attend professional conferences and workshops. The next deadlines for CPID awards are September 1 and February 1. Project Awards are available to both member and non-member educators. The deadline to submit an application is January 3, 2016.

**Got money? Give to educate the world.** Cornet Professional

Development and Project Awards rely on member contributions. Become a viable force in funding projects through contributions to DKGEF. All contributions are tax deductible, and they can be made in honor or memory of someone. They may be made by individuals or chapters.



## A Dream Come True!

### Board of Directors, Florida DKG Educational Foundation

For many years several Florida DKG members envisioned the state organization having its own Educational Foundation. The purpose was to allow members and others to have the opportunity to promote the personal and professional growth of Florida educators, support excellence in education, leave a lasting legacy and at the same time, receive the benefit of a tax deduction. That dream is now a reality!

As of August 2015, the Florida DKG Educational Foundation became an approved 501(c)(3) non-profit charity. Articles of Incorporation are filed, a board of directors identified, tax exempt status approved, a bank account established, and donations have been received.

The board of directors held its second official meeting on September 18, 2015, preceding the Mu State Fall Workshop/Executive Board. The Mu State Executive

Board approved the motion from the Foundation Board to allocate to the Foundation \$100,000 of the \$129,000 proceeds from the sale of the Mu State Headquarters. This will give the Foundation a greater base from which to earn funds to be used in granting awards, to earmark the funds for a specific purpose rather than incorporating them into Mu State Funds, to benefit a greater number of Florida DKG members, and to continue the momentum of the Florida DKG Foundation.

All members of Florida Mu State are members of its Foundation and will be invited to an annual meeting at which future decisions of the Foundation will be made. Those meetings will be announced and will be in conjunction with scheduled Mu State meetings.

Next on the board of directors' agenda is the development of specific criteria and the process to be used in the submission of applications and the granting of professional development awards. The first awards will be made at the 2017 Mu State (Florida) Convention in 2017. Each district meeting will provide more information as to how to apply for a Professional Development Award. Specific information will also be contained in **Florida Rays**.

If you are interested in making a tax exempt contribution to the Florida DKG Educational Foundation or in leaving a lasting legacy in honor or memory of someone, regardless of the amount, contact **Dr. Elsie Gross** at [elsiedgross@gmail.com](mailto:elsiedgross@gmail.com), or by calling her at 352.588.2814. You may also contact any member of the Board of Directors which, in addition to **Dr. Gross**, is composed of **Dr. Beverly Helms, Nancy Bentz, Connie Kostyra, Ann Tikka, Carrie Frye, Dr. Evelyn Kelley, Merle Jones, and Gerry Hacker**.

## Moving Forward . . .with Florida (Mu) State DKG



Those pictured from Florida are (from left) Carrie Frye, Dr. Peg Dunn-Snow, Merle Jones, Anita McDonough, Beatrix Wilbur and Dr. Elsie Gross.

Six Florida DKG members attended the Europe Regional Conference in Boras, Sweden August 5-8, 2015. For some of us, it was the first time attending a Europe Regional Conference. We were introduced to many beautiful sights from Stockholm to Kosta to Boras.

In Stockholm, the historical buildings, the palace, city hall, churches and gardens were beautifully maintained. Kosta is the center of the glass blowing industry where a group of seven from Florida (some husbands, granddaughter and daughter included) was joined by Gudren, a member from Sweden, to enjoy a dinner prepared by the glassblowers. The glassblowers also provided entertainment and a glassblowing demonstration.

Boras, the center of the textile industry, was the site for the 2015 Europe Regional Conference. The hotel was located in the town center enabling us to explore the city with its beautiful parks, many restaurants and shops.

The sessions we attended at the conference were geared toward the eight European countries that represent the Europe Region. There were some presentations by members from the United States that were of interest to the 22 DKG members from the U.S. This was a great experience and I would encourage you to make plans to move forward and expand your knowledge of DKG by attending meetings beyond your chapter, district or state.



## Europe Regional Conference

Mu State members **Merle Jones** and **Bea Wilbur** as attendees and **Dr. Peg Dunn-Snow** as the facilitator participated in an art therapy workshop at the Europe Regional Conference in August. A small, international group of DKG members created witness dolls to symbolize ways they take care of themselves, so they too can be effective caregivers to others in their professional and/or personal lives. After the dolls were completed, the participants were invited to discuss their workshop experience.



Many of the participants gave information about themselves, and all of them talked about what self-care activities their dolls represented. There were a variety of activities represented by the dolls including gardening, reading, vacationing near the seaside, listening to music, dancing, and enjoying all forms of the visual arts. At the end of the workshop, the participants were encouraged to find a prominent place in their homes or their workplaces to display their dolls as a reminder to continue to take care of themselves as well as others.

Art therapy enables an individual to explore personal challenges and potential skills through verbal and non-verbal expression and art experiences. In art therapy, the creative process is used to foster self-awareness and personal growth and to reconcile emotional conflict. Art therapy is also used in the assessment and evaluations of individuals, couples, families, and groups.

## Communication & Publicity

**Debra Graff, Chair**  
**MuStateCommunicationsCom-**  
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**813-244-3396 (cell)**

The purpose of the Mu State Florida "Communications and Publicity Committee (C&P)" is to provide our members with the vision, knowledge and support that will assist chapters with communication, and encourage chapters to use social media as a tool to communicate and promote our Society.

The C&P committee includes a representative from each district in our state. Your district representative should be your first point of contact for communication information. She will help you with your questions about print and non-print sources. You may also contact your representative for information about the Mu State District Calendars, chapter website certification, or directions to update a chapter member email address.

Members of the Communications and Publicity Committee are:

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The C&P Committee will strive to provide assistance to individual chapters as they work to build a network of communication that meets the unique needs of their chapter members.

Chapters are encouraged to:

1. Share chapter communication tools and techniques with their district representative.
2. Include the district representative in electronic newsletters and web updates.
3. Promote chapter events, meetings and projects with members and friends.
4. Promote chapter projects in their community through local newspapers or community news.
5. Share chapter events and projects through the **Florida Rays** newsletter, the District Calendar, Facebook, and Twitter.

If you have questions about expanding your chapter communication network, then contact us.

## A Look at Educational Excellence

**Yvonne M. McShay**  
**ymcshay@gmail.com**

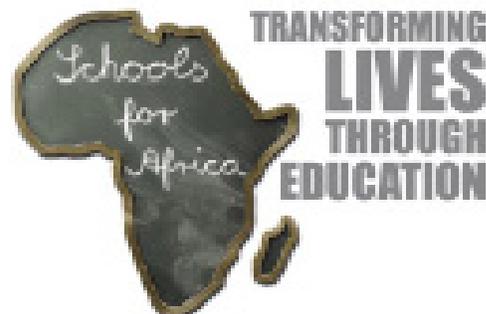
Two words gaining popularity in The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International are paradigm and passion. International with the intent to shift paradigms in 2010 merged several committees—research, professional affairs,

and personal growth, and services into Educational Excellence (EE). These three goals include empowering women through leadership opportunities, promoting educational excellence through programs and projects, and changing global awareness through collaboration world wide.

In July, I attended the Southeast Regional Conference held in Savannah, GA. On Wednesday prior to the opening day of the conference, all Educational Excellence chairpersons experienced a day of intense and interactive training. We received a USB flash drive loaded with all of the documents we will need for the biennium. My role as the Educational Excellence Chairperson for Mu State is to encourage chapters to support Early Educators, Schools for Africa, and encourage programs and activities to:

- Increase members personal and professional pride
- Promote the DKG /UN Relationship
- Increase members global awareness
- Promote the emergency fund
- Support Grants-in-Aid, and
- Include music.

I have aggressively begun my role by communicating with state leaders, the nine state EEC members, my chapter, Delta Beta, and now I have given you a glimpse. I invite you to join with the MU State leaders and the EE committee and let us all join in to embrace the first line of our DKG song, "Women Teachers to the Calling."



## Awards Committee



**Barbara Van Diepen**, Chair  
vandiepen61@bellsouth.net

The Mu State Awards Committee is looking forward to an active biennium. Our first task will be to solicit applications from the membership to recommend recipients of the Sarah B. Ferguson Mu State Achievement Award for 2016 and 2017. We will also be looking for candidates to be inducted into the Mu State Hall of Fame at the 2017 Mu State Convention.

We are seeking the assistance of all chapters to BOLO (Be On the Lookout) for possible nominees for both of our newest awards – The Media

Friend of Education Award and The Legislative Friend of Education Award. Please use these two years of the biennium to keep a close eye out for these two categories. The nominees may be local or statewide. We know there are possible recipients out there, but we need you to find and recommend them. Details concerning all awards are posted on the Mu State website and are available from any of the committee members.



## Reflections on the Southeast Regional Conference July 14-18, 2015



**Beth Dewey, Ed.D.** pictured with **Judith Mix**  
edewey@bellsouth.net

In a very southern city in a very southern state  
History and members comingled to create  
Some very special memories that occurred in July  
So pour some tea and set a spell to hear the reasons why:  
SERC traveled to Savannah and braved the summer heat.  
The hotel has a ferry that connects to River Street.  
Friends met in the Westin, eleven states in all  
To speak and learn and listen and meet in one great hall.  
First, Dr. Lyn Schmid, our President International  
Told of the scheduled trip to Tennessee/Nashville.  
Delta Kappa Gamma members concerned with legislation  
Heard Susan Scanlan speak on the status of the nation.  
Keynote speaker on Thursday, Polly Letofsky  
Walked around the world and told her story amusingly.  
Lots of workshops for our profession, some not so much.  
Many aimed at the classroom, some a personal touch.  
At night, touring, dining, and sweet sampling we did start  
Juliet Lowe's ghostly house was not for faint of heart.  
The food, it was outstanding, ever have shrimp and grits?  
Or dine with a pirate with a sandwich in your mitts?  
Savannah is something special; truly is one of a kind.  
We all left feeling different with Georgia on our mind.





## The 2015 Southeast Regional Conference

**JoAnne Wilson, Immediate Past Chapter President  
Beta Omega Chapter  
Seminole, Florida**

There were 727 DKG members and guests including 88 from Florida who attended the DKG Southeast Regional Conference held in the beautiful city of Savannah at the Westin Harbor Hotel. The Conference's opening session featured the traditional procession of the U.S. and DKG flags, the flags of the SE regional states (Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia) and the current and new president of each of those State Organizations. We were proud of Florida's **Merle Jones** and **Gerry Hacker**. After the ceremonies, the "Georgia Night" entertainment included Angela Beasley's Puppet People, and jazz/blues singer Huxsie Scott. As she ended her powerful presentation, Huxsie said, "If you liked my work, thank a teacher." Her 7th grade teacher was the first person to tell her she has a beautiful voice, taught her after school to play the piano and sing "old songs" which gave Huxsie a repertoire of jazz songs. (**Ann Lumsden** and Deb Graff pictured above.)



The following three days were full of inspiring, informative general sessions. Keynote speakers included Polly Letofsky, the author of **3mph: The Adventures of One Woman's Walk Around the World**. Polly walked over 14,000 miles, across 4 continents, 22 countries, and wore out 29 pairs of shoes! She used her global walk to raise awareness and funds for breast cancer. On Friday, Nita Scott, Membership Services Administrator for DKG, spoke on the topic "Collaborative Connections: DKG and Beyond." She urged collaborating with other community organizations and gave the example of a Texas Chapter's work with the Girl Scouts which has led to the development of a curriculum and a DKG Girl Scout Patch.



Also on Friday, the U.S. Forum speaker, Susan Scanlan, who has been an advocate for women's rights for over 40 years, talked of the progress that has been made, and the need for more. The U.S. Forum's purpose is to inform DKG members on pending legislation and to advocate for women, children, and education on a non-partisan basis. During the final general session on Saturday, a panel discussion was held on the topic "Perspectives and Possibilities." The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International will be 100 years old in fourteen years. Membership in DKG peaked in 1991 at 168,666 members, and now is at about 77,500. It was very moving to see the love and concern for our Society shown by the four panelists in their responses to the question, "What will DKG be like in 2029?" The panelist who had joined in 2010 stressed that newer members need the help and advice of experienced members to fully participate in DKG. (**Membership Chair Ann Blsfield** pictured.)



In addition, six 50-minute breakout-sessions were scheduled, providing us a variety of nearly sixty topics from which to choose. Sandra Smith Bull from Texas presented "DKG's Diversity Climate" and as we discussed ethnic and religious diversity, she reminded us that DKG doesn't have a religious affiliation. Other types of diversity mentioned were differences in age, educational positions, family situations, economic realities, communication, programming interests, and meeting time preferences. Despite this diversity, DKG's Purpose #1 is to unite "in a genuine spiritual fellowship." Enjoying this fellowship was a highlight of the 2015 SERC, and I urge you to attend the next SERC in South Carolina in 2017!



## Special Florida Events at Southeast Regional Conference

### Legacy of Leadership Reception



On Thursday, the DKG Education Foundation Board of Trustees held the first Southeast Legacy of Leadership reception honoring our outgoing and incoming Florida state presidents. **Dr. Elsie Gross** is pictured above with **Barbara Day** and **Linda McCrary**. **Dr. Beverly Helms** is pictured below with **Evelyn Baron** and **Jean Ricks**.



International **President, Dr. Lyn Schmid**, who opened the program encouraged all members to think about what legacy each of us wants to leave. Knowing how you want to be remembered helps you decide how to live, work, and support the society today.

The women honored are leaving a legacy of excellence, encouragement, purpose and/or love. Each honoree addressed the audience sharing her thoughts and feelings on her legacy.

Twenty-five dollars of each ticket was tax deductible as a charitable donation.

### Florida Peachy Event

Over 70 Florida members and guests gathered at the 2015 SERC for a meeting at which **Gerry Hacker** and **Merle Jones** were recognized. **Roxanne Berger** introduced 2015 - 2017 **Mu State President Gerry Hacker** by sharing some humorous experiences they have had together over the years. **Gerry** shared that she looks forward to serving Florida members during the next biennium. **Carrie Frye** inducted **Immediate Past Mu State President Merle Jones** into the Order of the Orange Blossoms and presented her a hand-painted orange blossom picture.



### To The Rescue...

Once again the Florida members stepped up to help when needed. Items ordered for such an activity as the Florida "Peachy" Event are very costly and can make for an expensive price per person. To offset this cost and help keep the per person rate reasonable, the following generously contributed: **Ginny Hunter, Logan Hunter, Diane Schurerer, Vicki Simms, Beth Dewey, and Roxanne Berger. Merle Jones and Carrie Frye** supplied the special beverage and utensils. We are most grateful to those who graciously assisted in any way with the Florida "Peachy" Event.

**A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL!**

### US Forum



**Carrie Frye, Beta Chi Chapter and US Forum SE Regional Representative for 2014 – 2016**, presided at the SERC 2015 US Forum. This session was well attended by 386 members. The dynamic **Susan Scanlan**, guest speaker who has 40 years of experience in Washington, DC, advocating for women's rights, wowed the members with her humor and experiences. **Susan** encouraged members to become active NOW by using our voices to let any and all politicians know how we stand on issues.

**Carrie** shared a Powerpoint that highlighted the 25 years of the Forum's National Legislative Seminar. As part of the closing, she also shared a Ted Talks youtube clip of Clint Smith's "*The Danger of Silence*." The Forum was summed up as a well-paced, outstanding session!

The door prize of an American flag flown over the Capitol on May 25, 2015, in recognition of the 2015 DKG US Forum was won by Becky Whilden of South Carolina. Surveys completed by the SE members indicate the four top issues of concern to be as follows:

1. Human Trafficking,
2. Social Security
- 3, Pay Equity for Women, High Stakes Student Testing & Financial Health of Retirement Programs (a three way tie).

## Florida Members Present & Facilitate Breakout Sessions at SERC

Although state organization presidents, editors, webmasters, treasurers, Education Excellence Committee Chairs, and Membership Chairs met in targeted training opportunities from Monday, July 13, through Wednesday, July 15, the majority of DKG members didn't arrive until Wednesday. An orientation for first timers was provided to explain the flow of activities for the rest of the week. Below are the first timers from Florida who attended this session.



The first general session entitled "Celebrating the Faces of Change" began Wednesday night at 7:00 PM. The Southeast Regional Organizations' Flag Presentation included Mu State **Immediate Past President Merle Jones** and **President Gerry B. Hacker** carrying the Florida state flag. Georgia Night concluded Wednesday's opening night festivities.

The second general session entitled "Embracing the Spirit of the Journey" included **Merle Jones** introducing the Past Southeast Regional Directors, along with past and present International Presidents. The talent spot featured "Simple Gifts," a Shaker Hymn, performed by **Carol Ann Casey, FL**. During Thursday's celebration luncheon, Carol Ann performed the musical blessing "Give Thanks."

Over the final three days, six breakout sessions were offered and nine concurrent sessions presented by Florida members. **Merle Jones, FL, Dr. Carleen Spano, FL, Carol Levin, FL,** pictured above, and **Jan Stevens, FL,** served as facilitators.



"China Treasurers: Experiences and Joys of Hosting Exchange Students" was presented by **Linda Zeller, FL**. This session described and detailed the foreign exchange experience from various perspectives.



"Fill Your Buckets with Cash and Discounts" was presented by **Barbara Van Diepen, FL**. Practical information, innovative ideas and proven strategies were shared to raise money for chapter projects without raising dues and fees.



"Going GLOBAL: Bringing World Fellowship to Your Chapter" was presented by **Olive Horning, FL**. Culture and education can be brought into your chapter through involvement in World Fellowship.

"Got Money? I Found Some!" was presented by **Dr. Beverly Helms, FL, Dr. Marianne Holland, SC, and Cathy Daugherty, VA**. They revealed society's best kept secret- how to get funding for projects and professional development from the DKG Educational Foundation.

"Gratitude Improves Your Health," was presented by **Dr. Peg Dunn-Snow, FL**. Participants completed a personal collage symbolizing people, places and events of gratitude in their lives.

"Launching Leaders and Careers: Effective Resumes, Applications, Endorsements, and Recommendations" was presented by **Ann Blossfield, FL**, Elaine Warwich, TN, Libby Watson, AL, and Peggy McCall, GA. They explained how to develop a portfolio of credentials to launch your leadership in DKG and professional career.



"Legislative Advocacy in Action: Use Your Voice!" was presented by **Nancy Bentz, FL, Carrie Frye, FL,** and Judy Jackson, TN. Your involvement is needed in the legislative arena to help make a difference on issues important to educators, women and children. Nancy closed the session with the song "Shout!" Your voice is important!

"Making a Difference: Impacting the World!" was presented by **Dr. Beverly Helms, FL,** and Cathy Daugherty, VA. Participants joined Trustees from the DKG Educational Foundation to learn ways members can make a difference and impact the world.

"Taking the Nation's Pulse on Common Core Standards" was presented by **Dr. Vivian Posey, FL**. An overview of the implementation of the Common Core State Standards from their introduction to the present and examples of successful state implementations were highlighted.

## Professional Development Hours Follow-Up



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

Kudos to all of you that took advantage of the Professional Development Hours Program that was offered to you at Fall Workshop. What a non-threatening, fun, enjoyable, and informative way to earn ten clock hours of professional development.

Remember that your Follow-Up Exercise must be submitted by December 30, 2015. Instead of letting things slide, complete your assignment now, while things are fresh in your mind. If you have any questions, please contact

**Carol Ann Casey**  
at caseyca@bellsouth.net  
or **Dr. Beverly Helms**  
at bevhelms@embarqmail.com

## Thank You, Workshop Presenters!

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

I want to extend a very special thank you to all of you who presented workshop sessions at Fall Workshop. There was a little something for everyone. You all did a fabulous job! All who attended had a special treat. The ones of

you that were not able to make it missed out on some really good learning, fun and inspiring sessions.

We were exposed to little bioluminescent creatures, learned first aid for our pets, shown how to produce our own DKG musical history program, given a chance to make and take a math game to share with our students, shown how to apply and receive grant money for those special educational projects we want to develop for our students, experienced dance therapy, and found out what to do with all those digital pictures you have taken. These are just to name a few. It was wonderful to see Mu State sisters willing to share their passion, talent, and expertise.

I look forward to seeing the workshops that you will offer us next year. Some of you have already submitted proposals for next Fall Workshop. We are off to a good start.

With district meetings coming up in the new year, I hope some of you will plan on presenting a workshop in your district. Contact your district director today and ask for a form.

## The 2016 Florida Jesslyn McBride Leadership Seminar



**Dr. Carleen Spano, Chair**  
cspano@comcast.net

The date?

June 26-29, 2016

The place?

Orlando Marriott Lake Mary

The occasion?

A wonderful opportunity to meet members from across Florida, to spend the better part of four days getting to know each other, to achieve insights about yourself, and to address timely topics. The promise is that you come away from the experience with a new set of best friends, as well as new knowledge and understandings – some personal, some professional, and some related to the society.

This is the first call for applications to spend part of the last week in June renewing your spirit, stimulating your curiosity and reinvigorating your senses as you participate in both collaborative, as well as, reflective activities. Just starting out in your professional work life? Need a mid-career lift? Looking for advancement? Now retired? The Seminar is designed to appeal to those whose interests span from the beginning of their careers through those seeking advancement or renewal in their current roles to those now in the next phase of active involvement.

The Florida Jesslyn McBride Leadership Seminar is funded through Mu State and participants pay only a nominal fee of \$150, in addition to travel costs and Monday night dinner on your own. All hotel room fees are included as well as daily breakfasts, lunches, snacks, and dinners. A legacy endowment from founder and benefactor, Jesslyn McBride, assures that this Leadership Seminar will remain an affordable opportunity for Mu State members as it is held every other year.

This is the opportunity for you to be a part of Jess' vision for the future of Mu State. See your chapter president for an application today!

## Members/Chapters Sharing Their Vision

Following up on the 2014 Leadership Seminar, **Beta Omega** member **Patricia Bell** took the initiative to help develop the chapter's Strategic Action Plan (SAP). During the last chapter meeting of the biennium, Pat conducted a three question survey including the following questions:

1. What three things do we do well?
2. What three challenges do we have?
3. What can we do differently?

The members' confidential responses will be reviewed by the leadership team to refine their initial SAP during the transition meeting from one biennium to another.

### Beta Omega Chapter member

**Bonnie Kelley** graduated with her Educational Specialist degree in Educational Leadership

from National Louis University. She was the 2014 recipient of the Mu State Scholarship and currently serves as the editor of the *Florida Rays*.



**Beta Omega Chapter** is proud to announce that member **Jackie Thornton** was recently named Volunteer of the Year by the Florida Retired Educators Association.



**Beta Upsilon Chapter** member **Joanna Fox** is the first teacher from Sarasota County to be selected to participate in the State Teacher Artist Residencies (STAR) program at the Hermitage Artist Retreat on Manasota Key. On August 15, 2015,

the creative writing teacher at Booker Middle School was featured in the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*.

The artistic work **Joanna** intentionally left behind at the Hermitage Retreat was a copy of her poem *Sea Island Sanctuary*.



**Gamma Kappa Chapter** recently presented **Emily Bliss**, a Life Member, with her 50 year pin. She was initiated into **Alpha Theta Chapter** on April 1, 1965, in Titusville. **Emily** then helped start **Gamma Kappa Chapter** in Rockledge, becoming one of the charter members on October 13, 1974. She originally taught elementary music at Rockledge Elementary before earning her guidance counseling degree. After that **Emily** was a guidance counselor at Edgewood Junior High and finally Kennedy Middle School. She celebrated her 92nd birthday in May.



On June 30, 2015, members of DKG Florida State Organization congregated at PEAR Lake in Lake County to plant a Dahoon Holly tree in memory of **Past Mu State President Yvonne Rice**.

Her home chapter, **Rho**, purchased the tree in honor of her dedication to DKG and educating others on conservation of our environment. Yvonne is missed, but her spirit will live on through the tree. Pictured from left to right are **Gerry Hacker, Roxanne Berger, Jan Stevens, Carrie Frye, Elsie Gross, and Ann Blossfield**.

**Joann Jasi-ca** shares her artistic talent and expertise in card embroidery as she conducts workshops for her **Gamma Nu** sisters and guests. "Embroidery on Paper" is a Dutch hobby,

which Joann initiated seven years ago, delighting DKG recipients for the past four years. Joann will be a presenter at the 2016 District VI Meeting where attendees will embroider a selected, pierced pattern and then mount their work of art for a take-home project.



**Dr. Peg Dunn-Snow's** article "Art Therapy: Definitions and Dimensions" was selected for inclusion in the Summer 2015 issue of *The Delta Kappa*

**Gamma Bulletin**. **Beta Alpha Chapter** and Mu State are proud of **Dr. Dunn-Snow's** sharing of her manuscript with the Society in this meaningful way. For ten years, Peg was our webmaster developing Mu State's website, Facebook page, and setting the standard for consistent chapter website development.



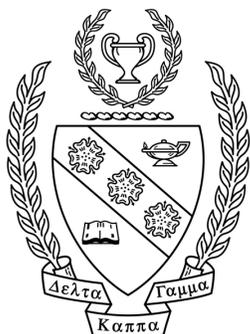
**District I  
April 30, 2016  
“Make Time for DKG”**



**Missy McCombie, Director  
mcumbie821@aol.com**

If you feel like you're too busy for DKG, come join District 1 and find that you CAN "Make time for DKG." We know the secret of MAKING TIME and are excited about sharing it with you. You deserve a break that day! So come and chill-out with us at the Apalachicola Bay Charter School in Apalachicola on April 30, 2016, at 8:30 AM EST for registration.

You will also have time to enjoy Apalachicola's historical sights, antique shops, novelty shops of all types, and seafood like none other!



**District II  
March 5, 2016  
“Making Footprints  
in the Sand”**



**Carolyn Fooshee,  
Director  
ckfooshee@gmail.com**

**Mark your calendars now  
to meet at**

**Neptune Baptist Church  
407 Third Street  
Neptune Beach, FL**

**on Saturday, March 5, 2016, for**

**FOOD,  
FUN &  
FELLOWSHIP!**

**EDUCATION,  
ENJOYMENT &  
ENTERTAINMENT!**

**THE DAY  
AT THE BEACH  
WITH US!**



**District III  
April 9, 2016  
“Let our Sisterhood  
be a Beacon  
for Other Educators  
to See”**



**Bonnie Ignico, Director  
vbignico@gmail.com**

District III will be hosting their meeting on Saturday, April 9, 2016. The theme will be “Let our sisterhood be a beacon of light for other educators to see.” Southern hospitality will greet you at the Plantation on Crystal River in Citrus County. A classic two-story white pillared plantation main building lets you feel like you are traveling back to an elegant time in history. A beautiful scenic view welcomes you as you walk from the pool to the river.

To add to your pleasant experience on Friday, April 8, we will leave the shores of the river on a sunset cruise to savor the company of our sisterhood. To enlighten you about the Citrus County School System and what is in our future, the guest speaker will be Superintendent, Sandra “Sam” Himmel.

The registration form giving you all the information as well as the workshop proposal is posted on [www.dkgmustateflorida.weebly.com](http://www.dkgmustateflorida.weebly.com) in the District III section.

Make it a time for yourself to reflect, relax and enjoy the beauty of Delta Kappa Gamma.

**District IV Meeting  
January 30, 2016  
“Finding Your Space”**



**Beth Dewey, Director**  
**edewey@bellsouth.net**

"We are on a journey to keep an appointment with whatever we are," said Gene Roddenberry who was the creator and producer of the television series *Star Trek*.

On January 30, 2016, please trek over to Viera High School in Viera, Florida to begin your journey in outer space and inner space. District IV is comprised of fifteen chapters, four of which are in Brevard County. Brevard County is also the home of the Kennedy Space Center (KSC) – hence our theme is "Finding Your Space." Dr. Lesley Fletcher from the Center for Space Education at KSC has graciously arranged a tour of her facility on Friday afternoon followed by free admission to the adjoining park. On Saturday, two workshops will be offered by Lyn Dotson, a NASA education specialist, featuring a digital tour of KSC.

Other workshops listed for finding our space within DKG include training for incoming presidents and treasurers and opportunities for State Committees such as Leadership, Educational Excellence, Membership, etc. to meet and address concerns. Workshops focusing on our inner space complete the choices for an inspiring and introspective event. Aliana, our mascot will be joined by other aliens featured in our centerpieces created by the art students at a local school. Do not

be surprised if you meet larger, human size aliens as participants are encouraged to attend in costume! We look forward to seeing you at Viera High School in whatever hue you choose.

Please keep your appointment with whatever you are on January 30, 2016, and "boldly go where no (wo)man has ever gone before!"

### **District V Meeting February 27, 2016 "Dive into Success with DKG"**



**Nancy Marmesh, Director**  
**nmarmesh@aol.com**

Come join District V as we "Dive into Success with DKG." This tropical event will be held on Saturday, February 27, 2016, at the First Baptist Church in Ft. Lauderdale.

Registration begins at 8:00 AM and includes a continental breakfast, a delicious luncheon, a basket raffle, entertainment, networking opportunities and much more. Workshops will include training for incoming presidents and treasurers as well topics ranging from website assistance, personal growth, and professional development. Please let me know if you are interested in presenting a workshop. We still have a few slots left to fill.

Our guest speaker at the luncheon will be **Dr. Phyllis Omilak** from **Kappa Chapter**. She will speak to us about the timely topic of "The Girl Scout-DKG Affiliation." In addition, the fabulous Florida Singing Sons will be entertaining us during the luncheon. The registration and workshop proposal forms can all be found on the Mu State Website: <http://dkgmustateflorida.weebly.com>

The District V chapters have been working hard to make this a memorable event. So mark your calendar for February 27, 2016, and get ready to be invigorated as we take the plunge!

### **District VI Meeting March 12, 2016 "DKG has a Passion for Fashion"**



**Norma Hardin Bond,  
 Director**  
**normal9728@hotmail.com**

"DKG Has a Passion for Fashion" will be celebrated at the District VI Meeting on Saturday, March 12, 2016, in Immokalee at the I-TECH Center. Please join us for interesting and informative workshops, good food, fellowship with DKG sisters from around the state, and fun with fashion. We look forward to having you join us. Thanks and blessings!

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

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 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](mailto:MuStateEditor@gmail.com)

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

Find the Mu State website on the International website. Go to [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org), click on **Society Websites**, click on the U.S. Flag, and then click on Florida. Click at the top of the map of Florida for the state website and on the chapter name for a chapter website. You can also visit the **new** website at [www.dkgmustateflorida.weebly.com](http://www.dkgmustateflorida.weebly.com)

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

Follow us on Twitter:  
[@DKGMuStateFL](https://twitter.com/DKGMuStateFL)

**Mu State Website**  
[www.dkgmustateflorida.weebly.com](http://www.dkgmustateflorida.weebly.com)

**Mu State Facebook Page**  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/DKG-Mu-State-Florida-Organization/128818413969052>

**DKG International Website**  
[www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org)

**The DKG Society International Facebook Page**  
<https://www.facebook.com/dkgorg>

**Immediate Past International President Beverly Helms' Twitter Account**  
<https://twitter.com/bevhelms>

### **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 email to [mem@dkg.org](mailto:mem@dkg.org)

**Mu State Treasurer**  
 Beverly Stagg  
[bastagg@hotmail.com](mailto:bastagg@hotmail.com)

**Mu State Necrology Chair**  
 Peg Dunn-Snow  
 3312 SW 51st St.  
 Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312  
[pegdunnsnow@bellsouth.net](mailto:pegdunnsnow@bellsouth.net)

### **Future Meeting Dates**

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

**District I: April 30**  
 Apalachicola Bay Charter School,  
 Apalachicola, FL

**District II: March 5**  
 Neptune Baptist Church,  
 Neptune Beach, FL

**District III: April 9**  
 Plantation on Crystal River

**District IV : January 30**  
 Viera High School, Viera, FL

**District V: February 27**  
 First Baptist Church, Fort Lauderdale

**District VI: March 12**  
 I-TECH Center, Immokalee, FL

**DKG International Convention**  
 July 5 - July 9, 2016  
 Gaylord Opryland Resort  
 and Convention Center  
 Nashville, Tennessee