



# The 4:15



**DKG Mission Statement:** The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.

Volume 60, Issue 3

Marilyn Nease, editor

November 14, 2016

## President's Pen

By Lou McMillan, 2016-2018 President

Dear Delta Omicron Chapter Members,

Isn't this weather wonderful? Autumn is my favorite time of year! Not only is it the most beautiful, but also it heralds my favorite events of the entire year: the State Fair of Texas and Dallas Cowboys football! I don't know about you all, but I "live" for football (college ball as well).



I was very fortunate to tour New England and see all the lovely fall foliage at the first of October. If you are a lover of the outdoors and some of the most beautiful landscapes in the world, this is the pilgrimage for you. Absolutely breathtaking!

We all enjoyed a wonderful October meeting with delicious food (thank you to our hostesses), a gorgeous tablescape (thank you, **Sherri Negrete**), and a marvelous program presented by our own **Ashraf Mobh**. Ashraf, the pictures were inspiring, and your talk was very interesting as well as informative. Your sense of serving others and your love of mission work was especially poignant to me. What a servant's heart you possess!

Now, we look forward to our November gathering with our initiation ceremony, delicious dinner, and another great program, this time presented by **Jaime Callahan**!

I hope everyone enjoyed their Halloween! I hope you had no tricks...just treats! ■

**Photo Notes:** pictured above - Vermont. More photos, page 9.

## Chapter Meeting News

**Monday, November 14, 2016**

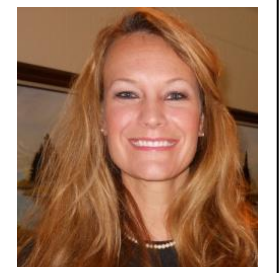
### Time and Agenda:

4:30 p.m. – Fellowship  
5 p.m. – Dinner, Program, Initiation Ceremony

### Program Presenter:

**Jaime Callahan**,  
Teacher, Grade 8 Science,  
HP Middle School,  
Highland Park ISD

**Her Topic:**  
"Retention of Early Educators  
Through Mentoring"



### Special Guest:

We welcome Katrina Hallman, our DKG initiate!



### Social Arrangements:

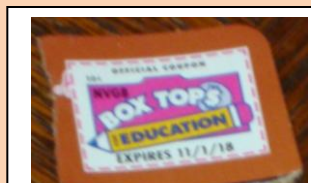
Committee Chair – **Sherri Negrete**  
Liaison with HPPC: **Margaret Thompson**

Table Decor – **Denise Barker**, chair;  
assisting: **Marilyn Nease, Sherri Negrete, and anyone else who wants to join us at 3:30-ish in Elliott Hall.** 😊

### Location:

Highland Park Presbyterian Church, Elliott Hall  
3821 University Blvd., Dallas 75205

What to bring to our November 14 meeting:  
Box Tops for Education coupons for Hillier School to **Carrie Parsons.** ■



## Inside This Issue...

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## Delta Omicron's The 4:15\* Five-Star-Award Newsletter

To submit news, contact  
Marylin Nease, editor

\* Delta = the fourth letter of the Greek alphabet, and Omicron = the fifteenth letter; also, on a good day 4:15 = the time we leave school; best of all, on a really good day, 4:15 = the time we head to Delta Omicron; hence, *The 4:15* title for our chapter's newsletter. ☺

Chapter Website: <http://deltaomicrontexas.weebly.com/>  
Chapter Webmaster: **Carolyn Power**  
Chapter Webwatcher: **Marylin Nease**

## Chapter News... Part 1 - Officers

### 2016-2018 Executive Board:

President: **Lou McMillan**  
Vice President, Programs / Service Projects: **Barbara Clinton**  
Vice President, Membership: **Jaime Callahan**  
Recording Secretary: **Susan Bell**  
Corresponding Secretary: **Ashraf Mobh**  
Treasurer: **Mary Gill**  
Parliamentarian: **Kay Keeland**  
Immediate Past President: **Mary White**



### Programs and Service Projects VP's Report

By *Barbara Clinton, Programs/Projects VP*

#### ● November 14 Program

**Jaime Callahan**, membership chair, will speak at our November initiation-dinner meeting. Currently working toward her doctorate in

Education Leadership K-12 at Dallas Baptist University, she will share her research and findings in the area of mentoring new and early educators as a strategy for increasing teacher retention.

Jaime graduated from Texas State University in 1996 with a degree in healthcare administration. She worked in human resources for six years before beginning her teaching career in Irving ISD, where she taught math and science in middle school for five years.

Jaime has taught in Highland Park ISD for 11 years. She received a master of education degree with a science specialty from Southern Methodist University in 2009 and currently teaches eighth-grade science at Highland Park Middle School.

Jaime's expected DBU graduation date is May 2018.

Almost 50% of new educators leave their initial school assignment or the teaching profession within their first five years.

In Jaime Callahan's words: "I hope that spreading awareness about the importance of mentoring new and early educators will start a chain reaction that will reach campus and district leadership in support of this necessary element for our new teachers." ■

### ● 2016-2017 Service Projects

#### ▶ CHAPTER:

- **All Hands on Deck for Hillier** – ASTEF-funded program at Hillier School to support early-career educators, support students with diagnosed learning differences, and support the principal (August-May)
- **Denton State-Supported Living Center** - donation of monetary gifts (December)

#### ▶ TSO:

- **Week of Caring** - chapters statewide develop service projects in local communities (February, March)
- **Unifying Project** - project that serves needs of state convention community, unifies chapters across Texas in service (May, June)

#### ▶ INTERNATIONAL:

- **Schools for Africa (SfA)**, a UNICEF and DKG international project (adopted in 2010) to "transform lives through education" on the African continent, with special focus on girls, orphans, and vulnerable children (October, November)
- **Support Early-career Educators (SEE)**, DKG international project (adopted in 2012) to strengthen the profession by empowering beginning teachers via mentoring and practical support from experienced teachers (August-May) ■

### Membership VP's Report

By *Jaime Callahan, Membership VP*



#### ● Orientation Tea

We have an orientation tea planned for November 13 to begin the ongoing process of sharing with candidates for membership what DKG is all about.

At our chapter's October meeting, **Carolyn Miller** recommended Katrina Hallman for membership, and chapter members voted in favor of extending an invitation to membership to Katrina.

**Maurine Baker** and **Patsy Vaughn**, initiated last May and November respectively, will also be attending the orientation tea.

**Carolyn Miller** is our gracious hostess for the tea.

Carolyn shares, "Katrina Hallman graduated from Richardson ISD's Lake Highlands High School. At Kilgore College, she was a Kilgore Rangerette and performed each year at the Cotton Bowl.

"Her first teaching job was at Dallas ISD's Rusk Junior High. She now teaches history at Highland Park ISD's McCulloch Middle School. She also helps train new teachers.

"She is the youngest of three girls and loves to run.

"I am very excited to recommend Katrina for membership in Delta Omicron." ■

## Recording Secretary's Report



By Susan Bell, Recording Secretary  
● October 17, 2016, Minutes

The Delta Omicron Chapter of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International met on Monday, October 17, at 4:30 p.m. at Highland Park Presbyterian Church. Thirty-five members and three guests were present. Members enjoyed

refreshments provided by **Margaret Arnold, Elenora Asbury, Denise Barker, Susan Bell, Leah Black, Lou Brown, Chris Bruner, Joy Burger, and Jaime Callahan**. A big thank-you goes to **Sherrie Negrete**, social arrangements committee chair, for organizing refreshments every month.

### Business:

**Lou McMillan**, president, began the meeting by introducing **Carolyn Miller**, personal and professional enrichment committee chair, who delivered an inspiration on attitudes of gratitude and other positive emotions and their benefits for health.

Cathy Criner, Area 9 coordinator, addressed the members about area news. We were glad Cathy could be part of our meeting.

██████████ Supervisor of Early Childhood Education and Director of Education for the Dallas Zoo, shared information about part-time teaching opportunities at the zoo and asked if any members might have an interest in teaching classes to school children. This is not volunteer work but is paid an hourly wage.

The president asked if anyone had cares or concerns to share about members. There were none.

President McMillan asked if there were any additions or corrections to the September meeting minutes. There were not; therefore, members approved the minutes as printed in the October newsletter.

**Leesa Cole**, TSO headquarters executive assistant, demonstrated how to update a member profile on the DKG international website. She also offered hands-on assistance to members.

**Mary Gill**, treasurer, reported the chapter's bank balance. The report will be filed for audit.

**Elenora Asbury** is unable to host the chapter Christmas party on Saturday, December 10. However, **Kathy Rodriguez** has graciously offered her lovely home for the party.

**Lou McMillan** reminded members to give **Mary Gill** \$25 for the initiation dinner during the meeting or to mail it to Mary if unable to take care of it at the meeting.

**Linda Tokoly**, legislation committee chair, reminded members of the approaching general election voting dates and about Texas' January 2017 legislative session.

### Program:

**Barbara Clinton**, vice president for programs, introduced our speaker, **Ashraf Mobh**, global awareness committee chair, who spoke about her "Global Encounters" work in Kenya this past summer. Ashraf said one focus of the summer program was for "Global Encounters" volunteers to create sustainable projects to make life better for Kenyans. For example, the volunteers set up ongoing ways to have available clean water. They also sorted and organized already donated technology and books in schools in order to make teaching viable and sustainable. One of the most stirring examples Ashraf gave of the differences the sustainable projects were making was of a girl without hands who learned to use her feet to write. Ashraf reported Kenya has had public education for ten years. This summer mission work, which emphasized personal involvement more than monetary gifts, was a moving personal-growth experience for Ashraf and her group of volunteers. Ashraf said, "We did not so much change Kenya as Kenya changed us." Chapter members found her "Global Encounters" presentation fascinating and enlightening.

**Carolyn Power**, global awareness committee member, spoke briefly about DKG's Schools for Africa project. She will share more information and donation forms at the November meeting.

**Lou McMillan** adjourned the meeting, and members sang "The Delta Kappa Gamma Song." ■

## Treasurer's Report

By Mary Gill, Treasurer

On October 31 our bank balance was \$7,537.22. ■



## Chapter News continued... Part 2 – Committees: Society Business

### Communications and Publicity Committee

#### ● Thank You to Committee Members

By Marilyn Nease, Committee Chair



Thank you to **Chris Brunner** for keeping our non-email members informed. Each month Chris prints and mails *The 4:15* to our five members without email.



A thank-you also goes to **Mary Louise Milliorn** for making phone calls to members without email. ■

● **Editor's Note:** Periodically *The 4:15* will feature articles of special interest to members. These articles will be about the Society, the chapter, professional issues, women's issues, and human interests.

**This month's article is about the Society, chapter, and human interests.**

# Be Happy!

By Marylin Nease, Editor

## October 2016 Chapter Meeting

At our October chapter meeting, **Carolyn Miller**, personal and professional enrichment committee chair, delivered an inspiration urging us to stress less, smile more, and be healthier.

It seems, Carolyn reported, that *how we respond to life* can be either harmful—or helpful—to our health.

Based on our responses to life, our bodies release either stress hormones (adrenaline, norepinephrine, and cortisol)—or happy hormones (endorphins).



Too much of the first on a regular basis harms our health by dilating blood vessels and airways, increasing heart rate, and raising blood pressure. We can end up with

insomnia, anxiety, and poor immunity. In other words, we can become sick.

On the other hand, those endorphins can help heal whatever ails us. One way to get more endorphins is to exercise. For example, walk the dog, even if you don't have a dog. ☺ Exercise leads to deeper breathing, a reduction in stress and tension, and the release of endorphins, the body's feel-good hormones.

Laughter also releases endorphins!

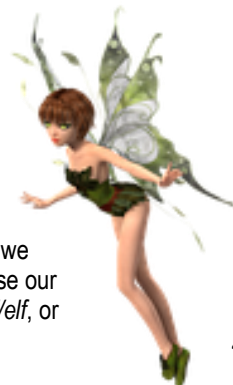
## July 2016 International Convention

And that reminds me of the July 2016 international convention in Nashville. Minnesota's Edna Thayer presented one of my all-time favorite breakout sessions: "Humor for the Health of It." I laughed from beginning to end of her packed session!

Edna told attendees that we have to prime the pump; that is, we need to put laughter in to get more out. And since we can't have two opposing emotions at once, when we're laughing, we're feeling good and healing. Laughter's endorphins thwart infections and alleviate pain.

Edna taught us that laughter and its endorphins increase self-esteem, nourish hope, and neutralize negativity.

She said we feel how we act, so it's best to act happy, to fake it even. We learned we can exaggerate for humor, and we can increase our opportunities to laugh. We can remember *self/elf*, or



the *elf* in *self* in order to be our own greatest source of mirth on earth. Every time we are that magical, playful elf that's inside us, we are laughing and healing!

## June 2016 TSO Convention

At this past summer's state convention, **Susan Bell, Barbara Clinton, Mary White**, and I attended Dr. Debra Rockefeller's breakout session, "Expand Your Capacity for Happiness." Debra is from TSO's Eta Delta Chapter.

One trick she shared with us that I use often now is "rewrite the story."

When a fellow grocery shopper cut me off with her cart in the dairy area, I rewrote the story: she had limited time to shop and return home to care for her ailing husband.



When a driver zoomed past me on the freeway, I told myself he was late for his own surprise birthday party. The guests were waiting for him to walk in so they could shout "Surprise!"

When I missed my turn because the street sign was missing, I circled back and searched for the turn again. I hadn't been there in a year, and there was still no sign the second time around, but I turned anyway, and, hooray, I ended up where I wanted to be! I told myself my doctor was testing my vision and memory, and I passed his test with close to flying colors!

I enjoy the challenge of rewriting the story! It stimulates my creativity, and my stories make me smile. The result is I'm stewing less and laughing more. ☺

## 2012-2014 Biennium

Going back to the 2012-2014 biennium, I recall Anne Barab, who spoke to our chapter and later to the state convention.

Anne reminded me of the feel-good power of being grateful. Because of Anne, every night as I'm falling asleep, I have an internal conversation. I reflect on my day and tell myself five things I'm thankful for from that day. The gratitudes on my list have to be specific and different every day. Smiling, I often fall asleep before I finish my list!

Anne also reminded me about choosing my battles. Sometimes it's not worth pushing back. Those coffee grounds my Charles leaves on the countertop every morning? Not worth



getting upset over. I wipe them into the sink, and rinse them down the

drain. Easy! Then, I go on to whatever's next in my day. I remind myself, too, that Charles is giving me breaks when it comes to my own everyday behaviors—and I smile with thankfulness. ☺

## And so...

I think more about how I'm responding to life now, and my endorphins should be up.

I'm grateful to all of these DKG presenters for sharing their messages about happiness and health! ☺ ■

## Membership Committee

### Data

- **October Attendance**

Attendance at our **October 17 meeting** was **35 members and three guests.**

- **Chapter Profile**

Our chapter has three members with more than 50 years of membership, six with 40-49 years, six with 30-39 years, 10 with 20-29 years, 12 with 10-19 years, and 19 with nine or fewer years of DKG membership.

We have 20 members employed full-time in education, and 36 members semi- or fully retired (including one honorary member).

**Total membership is 56, with 55 active status and one honorary status. ■**



## Yearbook Committee

- **Awards Earned**

*By Marilyn Nease, Committee Chair*

On October 31, I emailed an electronic version of our new chapter yearbook to the TSO committee chair. I also mailed printed copies on October 31 to our TSO Headquarters, area coordinator, and Coordinating Council of Dallas County (CCDC) chair.

Many thanks go to our technology committee members for updating sections of the yearbook: **Elenora Asbury**, member directory pages; **Leesa Cole**, officers and committees pages; and **Lakesha Collins**, CCDC pages. Thanks also go to **Barbara Clinton** (programs/projects vp), for updating the meetings, programs, projects page.

A thank-you goes to technology committee member **Sarah Beth Uhles**, too, for updating our chapter brochure.

Delta Omicron has received the following awards: Early Bird Yearbook Award and Exemplary Yearbook Award. The chapter will be recognized for these awards at the 2017 state convention in Houston. ■

## Part 2 – Committees: Society Mission / Purposes

### Legislation Committee

*By [Redacted] Committee Chair*

- **A Thank-you, the Mission Ahead**

A special thank-you goes out to our active and retired educators who have joined TRTA.

We really do need to get more members enrolled and our enrollment numbers up. You do not have to attend the meetings. Attendance is up to you.

We are going to have to stay on the Texas legislators when the legislature convenes in January. ■

## Part 2 – Committees: Special

### ASTEF/Hillier Project Committee

- **2016-2017 ASTEF Project: All Hands on Deck for Hillier, Year Three**

*For Becky Quigley, Committee Chair*

We are now at 54% member participation in our Hillier project. Our goal is 100%.

**Q.** How can you become involved?

**A.** (1) Help with teacher encouragement in Dec., Feb., or Apr. (2) Bring your Box Tops for Education coupons to meetings. (3) Tutor after school. **Lou McMillan, Marilyn Nease, and Margaret Thompson** are already having fun tutoring. Join them! (4) Plan to help with next spring's school fundraiser. Details to follow. (5) Substitute teach (This one's for pay, of course). ■



## ● After-school Tutoring at Hillier

By Margaret Thompson, ASTEF Project Participant

I have really enjoyed spending time with The Hillier School students the last few Fridays.

They are willing to read and visit, and they are very bright in spite of their struggles. I've also had the opportunity to meet a few parents, who are grateful their children are learning so much at Hillier.

I look forward to Friday afternoons with our students. ■



By Marylin Nease, ASTEF Project Participant

**Tuesday, October 11, 2016**

**Tutee #1** - Today begins my third year of after-school tutoring at Hillier School. A few minutes into meeting my first student, a fourth-grade boy, and hearing him read a

couple of pages from *Killer Flood*, I realize I am grinning and having a great time.

His reading teacher told me earlier that he has trouble grouping words when he reads and asked me to work on that. Yes, I hear him reading the words well but not with understanding. In fact, he reads right through periods and question marks. We stop to talk about end marks and what to do when we encounter them. He begins reading again, and what a difference! I now hear understanding when he reads. He's bright and grins when I praise his progress. A few pages later, he's reading through end marks again. I ask whether he's tiring. I remind him about end marks and what they tell a reader to do. He begins again, and I hear understanding again.



He asks me whether I remember a classmate I tutored the last two years. I say yes, and he says with a big smile, "He told me all about you."

**Tutee #2** - My second child is a fourth-grade girl. We introduce ourselves, then begin reading.

Her book is *The Sea Foam*, which is also the name of the boat in the story, and once again the plot puts us in threatening water!

Her book is much easier reading than was the other fourth-grader's book, but she is doing well



with it and understands when we stop to discuss what she's reading. I am reminded that a variety of reading levels can be in the same classroom!

Her father arrives to pick her up, and I meet him and two of her siblings.

**On my drive home after tutoring**, I think about how happy I am to be back volunteering with these students, who are so willing and appreciative. I feel good, too, remembering that today a Hillier reading teacher told me, with delight, how much better a fifth-grade boy is reading now—after our after-school tutoring the past two years. Hooray!

**Tuesday, October 18, 2016**

I check in at the security desk, and the attendant gives me my ID badge. I hear my name and look around to see one of my tutees from last year waving, grinning, and excited to see me. Another tutee from last year (in line with his classmates and supervised by their teacher) waves to catch my attention and mouths across the lobby, "May I read with you today?" Oh, how good it feels to be greeted this way!

**Tutee #1** – Surprise! My first tutee today is a fourth-grade boy who did not at all want to participate in after-school tutoring last year. Today he wants to, and we greet each other and begin in the middle of *The Unlucky Number*, a mystery.

He reads two pages to me, and I ask him to catch me up on the part he read before we began. Then, he begins reading again, and gradually we are both hooked, making predictions and trying to solve the story's puzzle.

We hear a sound next door, and he tells me it's part of a STEM activity: blow up a balloon, tape the balloon closed, attach it to a string-line, release the tape, and watch the released air propel the balloon along the string.

He asks me how long we've read—five minutes he guesses. I check my timer. It's been 15 minutes. We're both surprised! When our 20 minutes are up, he is in the final chapter of the book! I am so pleased at how he has matured in a year, at how eagerly he now asks for and receives help.

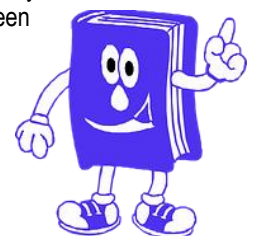
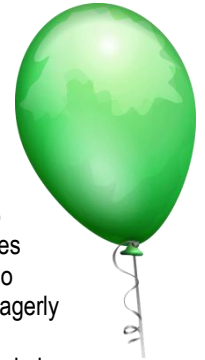
**Tutee #2** - My second tutee today is a fifth-grade boy. He's one of my last year's tutees, the one who asked in the lobby if he could read with me today. We take a few minutes to get reacquainted, and then I ask him how long he wants to read today.

He tells me he has to read 30 minutes because he's in fifth grade now. I laugh, and we talk about the difference in "have to" and "get to." A happy child, he smiles. I don't think he minds 30 minutes vs. 20 minutes at all.

We begin reading in *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Old School*. The story is funny, and I remember reading it with one of my Hillier boys last year. We stop now and then to check comprehension, and I tell him how pleased I am at the growth I see in his reading from last year. He tells me, yes, he read during the summer. It shows!

**Tutoring "Intermission"** - A fifth-grade boy I worked with the last two years finds me in the break between my tutees, and we hug and catch up, reconnecting.

We're happy to see each other! I tell him his reading teacher told me he's reading much better this year. I ask whether



he read this summer. He tells me, "Yes, I love reading!"

Yes! Yes! Hooray!

**Tutee #3** - My third tutee today is a petite fourth-grade girl. She is eager to start reading in her book, *The Video Thief*. We have another mystery to solve!

She reads a page, and I ask her to catch me up on what happened in the story earlier. She does, and then she continues reading. We stop now and then to make predictions and check for comprehension.

The plot shows a group of friends working together to catch the thief, who planted stolen videos on a fellow employee and caused him to lose his job. In the end, the bully/thief is found out, and the friend receives his job back. So, teamwork/friends have saved the day, and justice prevails.

**I leave tutoring thinking about** how these children are so bright, courteous, and eager to learn. Today, I noticed as each child opened his/her binder and turned to the reading log, they put their books carefully back into a protective plastic envelope that is a part of each child's binder. They are proud of the school's new books, and they are taking excellent care of them! I love volunteering with these kids!



**Tuesday, October 25, 2016**

**Tutee #1** - Today my first tutee is a fifth-grade boy I've tutored the last two years. It feels good to be reading together again!

He has a book he calls a comic book, but I think nowadays the genre is often referred to as a graphic novel. In *Graphix Goes to School*, each story is six pages long and is told through captioned pictures, so the plot goes quickly.

The first tale is "Permanent Detention" and has the main character, Lombardo, a sixth-grade honors student, facing a nightmare teacher, Professor Stubbs. My tutee and I are both shocked and laughing at the teacher's behavior and the student's predicament. Gradually we realize our story is a literal nightmare—and we are relieved!

The second one is "Amulet" and has the main character, Cedric, and his classmates being mentored by their teacher about using their magic stones wisely. Cedric is the questioning, determined sort, and in the end he is focused enough and believes strongly enough that he becomes a hot air balloon and floats away, serving as a role model for his classmates and teacher. Definitely a creative tale!

We had set the timer for 30 minutes when we began. My tutee wants to read another minute or two to finish the second tale! ☺

**Tutee #2** - My second tutee is a fifth-grader I tutored week before last. He comes in with a grin and has the same book, *Graphix Goes to School*. He tells me all the fifth graders received a copy.

We set the timer for 10 minutes: he wants to read a bit and then go to recess with his classmates.

Oops, he reads right past those end marks again! We review what to do when he runs into periods, question marks,

and exclamations marks. He begins reading again, and I can tell he's understanding again. ☺

At one point he reads "GPA," and I ask him what that means, checking for comprehension. He answers, "GPS?" So, I explain Lombardo's concern about his "grade point average," and I tell my tutee that usually it's high-school students who think about their GPA. We also talk about "permanent detention." He knows that detention would typically be no longer than the end of a school day. When we talk about the meaning of "permanent," his eyes widen at the concept of being in detention *f-o-r-e-v-e-r!*



He gets wrapped up in the stories and reads a few minutes longer so he can finish both. We complete his reading log entry. Then he's off to enjoy a perfect fall afternoon with

his classmates! ■

### ● October Teacher Encouragement



On Wednesday, October 26, Delta Omicron members provided food and fellowship to encourage Hillier's educators.

L-R: **Mary White, Mary Riddle**, and **Marilyn Lamb**. Not pictured: **Mary Gill**.

**Editor's Note:** When I arrived at Hillier on November 1 to tutor, Hillier's teachers thanked me for the treats and encouragement. I accepted their thanks on behalf of Mary, Mary, Mary, and Marilyn. Hillier's teachers always appreciate DKG! ■

## Chapter News continued...

### Part 3 – Members' News

#### Members' Professional News

● **DKG Gallery of Fine Arts: New Work Published**  
[http://www.dkg.org/DKGMember/DKG\\_Gallery\\_of\\_Fine\\_Arts.aspx](http://www.dkg.org/DKGMember/DKG_Gallery_of_Fine_Arts.aspx)

#### Watching and Learning: A Story for My Sister [REDACTED] on Her 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday By Marilyn Nease

My first memory of [REDACTED] involves the two of us—and one Hereford steer.

Probably, I was six, and [REDACTED] was 10.

I remember being with [REDACTED] in a stall in our barn, and the stall's floor had a bed of straw. I watched [REDACTED] groom her steer with a curry comb, leaving a wavy pattern in the animal's coat. When she finished, [REDACTED] used a halter to lead the steer outside, and we walked the steer from our house to the end of our road—to the point where our road intersected with the next road—and back again, maybe half a mile.

[REDACTED] was grooming and exercising this steer in preparation for showing it at the Grady County fair.

It was early morning—so early that it seemed it was night to me because we walked her steer in the dark. We made our way down the road by moonlight and starlight.

I can still feel, in my imagination, the dampness and the chill in the air, of that time before night ends and morning begins. I can hear the sounds of the steer's hooves crunching the gravel of the road as we marched from one end of the road to the other and back again. Other than that crunching sound, there was perfect quiet all around us.

Later, when the steer-walking chore was done and we climbed our school bus steps, it was still dark outside.

The mystery and the wonder I felt as I walked by [REDACTED]'s side that early, early morning, through the dark beneath the moon and the stars, is strong in my memory, as if it happened this morning.

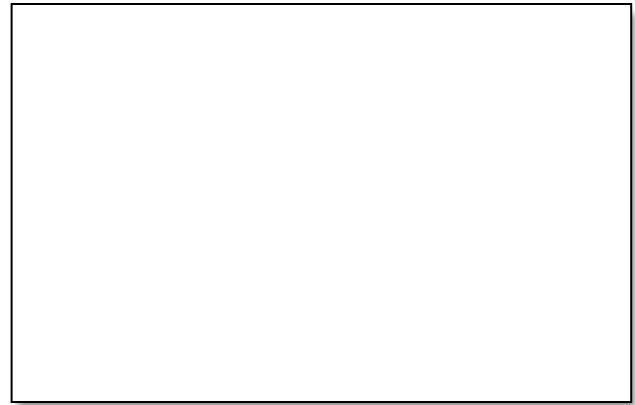
I was along to watch and to learn from [REDACTED], and I've been watching and learning from [REDACTED] ever since.

In the end, I did not learn to show cattle from [REDACTED]; cattle didn't turn out to be my cup of tea.

But I did learn more important lessons from [REDACTED]—about responsibility and patience, about work and goals, about family and love.

And I learned to be an adventurer: to walk in the dark, to look for the moon and the stars, to be unafraid while I find my way in life.

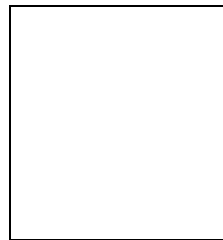
Thank you, [REDACTED].



[REDACTED] with a Hereford cow and calf. [REDACTED]'s show-cattle earnings later helped pay her way through Oklahoma University med school. When she entered in 1964, she was one of seven women in a class of 106 students.

Dr. Annie Webb Blanton would have been familiar with the bias [REDACTED] and her female classmates faced. ■

#### ● Professional News Bits



**Nancy Johnson** recently "was in Austin for a two-day dyslexia conference. Very interesting conference!"

**Priscilla Oliphint** has been "very busy with my new job. I am now the science lab teacher at Bradfield for Grades 1-4, and it is fun, but time-consuming. I am now responsible for the garden, as well."



**Wanda Spoonmore** in October completed teaching a term of college algebra at DeVry. A week and a half later, she began teaching the next term. ■

#### Members' Personal News

##### ● Happy News Bits



**Maureen Baker** in October "was on vacation in North Carolina with a former choir member from HPPC. We had a wonderful time singing through the mountains. We enjoyed each day and found new adventures as we drove the Blue Ridge Parkway."



**Susan Bell** had an October wedding to attend in Iowa, her son [REDACTED]'s. **Denise Barker** and **Barbara Clinton** also attended.

Susan shares, "[REDACTED] wrote all the music for the wedding, and he wrote a song with lyrics that a good friend sang called '[REDACTED]'. As they recited their vows, each of them would get teary and wipe tears from the other's eyes. I am tearing up as I write this to you now. They had dancing bridesmaids, who did a very tasteful choreography, and a beautiful flute trio composed of the bridesmaids, who played to the arrangement [REDACTED] had composed of [REDACTED]'.

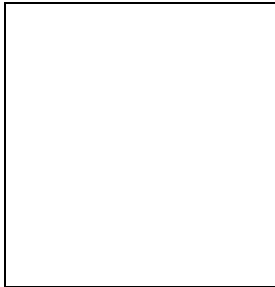


"The church is a very old church in Fort Madison that [REDACTED] grew up in and her grandfather helped build. At the end of the ceremony, she and [REDACTED] rang one of the old-timey, huge bells five times, which is how many years they were engaged. After all this time of waiting, I think they are rekindled and totally in love! Not that they weren't before, but life had set in!"

[REDACTED] and her son are glad to be back in their home again after the August house fire.

Now the family focus is on replacing household items whenever they realize they no longer have them. *Oh, we need a shower curtain liner! Oh, the vacuum cleaner is gone!*

Still, it's home sweet home again!



**Mary Carol Hughes'** "grandchildren are in first grade, next door to Mary Carol's classroom."

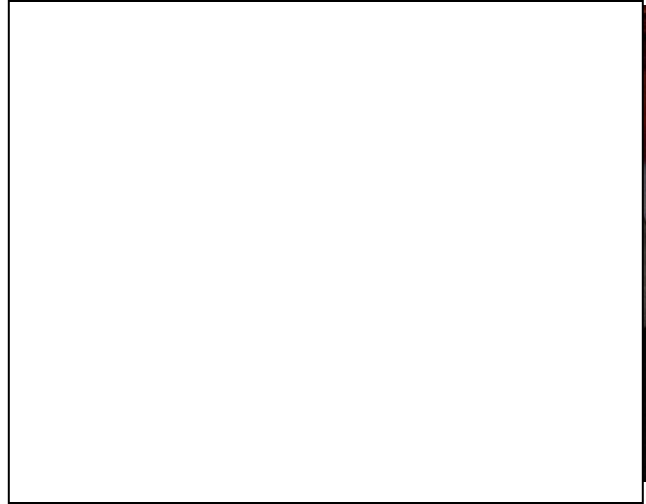


**Mary Louise Milliorn** and husband [REDACTED] moved to The Forum in early summer. They love it—brand new apartment conveniently located and no cooking. Mary Louise says their house is almost cleared out. To finish, she plans some surprise Christmas presents for their children. Christmas surprises are a Mary Louise tradition the family looks forward to every year!



**Margaret Thompson** also attended a family wedding in October: her niece's in Chicago.

She reports, "What fun was had by all last weekend [the end of October]!"



● **More Photos from Lou McMillan's Fall Foliage Trip**



**Top:** New Hampshire, covered bridge  
**Bottom:** Plymouth, Massachusetts, *Mayflower II* ■

● **Happy November Birthdays!**

Elyse Griffin, 11; Joy Burger, 17; Sarah Beth Uhles, 20; Leah Black, 22 ■

**October 17, 2016, Meeting Photo Album**



Thank you to our hostesses!



Denise Barker and Susan Bell



Jean Wallace and Kathy Rodriguez



Ashraf Mobh and Barbara Clinton



Carolyn Power



Katy Kunofsky



Carolyn Power and Leesa Cole



Margaret Thompson and Carrie Parsons



Dallas Zoo representatives



Marilyn Nease



Leah Black and Chris Brunner



Carrie Parsons and Becky Quigley



Wanda Spoonmore and Shirley Kochman



Sara Coleman



Shirley, Elenora, Lou, Marta, Bonnie



Elenora Asbury, Lou Brown, Marta Finlay



Lou McMillan, president, presides.



Grace D, Jaime C, Margaret A, Leah B



Mary Gill, treasurer



Carolyn Miller delivers the inspiration.



Joy B and Cordelia V provide music.

Cathy Criner, Area 9 coordinator

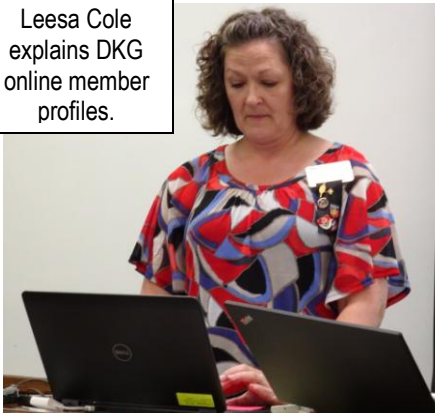


Chris Brunner



Judy C, Sherrie N, Mary W, Cathy C, Grace D, Jaime C

Leesa Cole explains DKG online member profiles.



Dallas Zoo reps offer teaching opportunities.

█ gives legislative update.



█ Judy C, Melanie R



Melanie Rudebeck



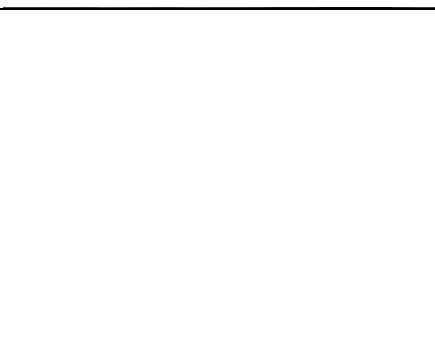
Denise Barker



Barbara Clinton introduces Ashraf Mobh.



Ashraf Mobh presents █ her service work last summer in Kenya.



Part of Ashraf's presentation



Carolyn Miller recommends DKG candidate.



Wanda Spoonmore and Marilyn Nease



## Dallas County News

### ● 2017 Spring Luncheon

**Save the date:** April 1, 2017, Fellowship/9:30 a.m., Program/10 a.m., Lakewood Country Club, Annual CCDC Spring Luncheon, with speaker Marilyn Gregory, TSO president.



Luncheon ticket: \$30.00

#### Menu:

Tomato and Mozzarella Salad,  
Baby Spinach, Pesto Dressing  
Chicken Parmesan, Angel Hair  
Pasta, Buttered Broccoli  
Chocolate Mousse Cake ■



## Area 9 News

### ● Heart to Heart

Dear Area 9 Members,

We are entering a wonderful time of the year when we can celebrate all the things we are thankful for.

As the song says, "For health and home and food, / We express our

gratitude / With a faithful heart...."

May we stop to count our blessings!

I am so thankful for all the friends I have made through DKG! I often think if I were not a member of DKG, I wouldn't know very many wonderful, wonderful ladies. You are an inspiration to me!

As we look at November, there are several forms due. I hope your chapter treasurer completed the 990N form and you were able to get it to the TSO office. I did my chapter's, and I am glad that it is behind me. The treasurer's forms 18 and 18-A are due as well. Also, if you want your chapter to be recognized with an early bird yearbook award, November 1 is around the corner.

Can you believe November is almost here? I cannot wrap my head around that. So much is going on, so make sure you stay on top of it all.

Have a very happy Thanksgiving!

Until next time,  
Cathy Criner  
Area 9 Coordinator ■



## Texas State Organization News

### TSO Website

[www.dkgtexas.org](http://www.dkgtexas.org)

### Lone Star News, Fall Edition

<http://www.dkgtexas.org/uploads/4/2/8/3/42835841/lstn.fall.2016.pdf> Great convention coverage in news and pics! ■

### TSO Projects

- Week of Caring, February, March 2017
- Unifying Project, May, June 2017 ■

### TSO President and Theme, 2015-2017

Marilyn Gregory

The Heart of the Society Is Its Members

#### Biennium Goals:

**Health** – to encourage members to practice healthy lifestyles, which promote healthier chapters

**Education** – to educate members about the importance of membership and encourage them to make an impact on their communities and the world

**Achievement** – to achieve our goals as leaders in our chapters and recognize our accomplishments as key women educators

**Reflection** – to reflect on our heritage as we advance the Society

**Teamwork** – to work as members of a team to strengthen involvement in all levels of the Society ■



### TSO's ASTEF



Alpha State Texas  
Educational Foundation

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

**Q:** What is ASTEF's mission?

**A:** Impacting Education by Impacting Educators!

**Q:** How does ASTEF carry out its mission?

**A:** Through funding (1) scholarships and (2) leadership events, which support the professional and personal growth of Texas women educators, and through funding (3) projects, which promote educational excellence for Texas students. ■

## TSO Committees, 2015-2017

From Area 9 and Delta Omicron:

- Marilyn Nease, Headquarters Committee
- Carolyn Power, Legislation Committee
- Mary White, Ceremonies Committee ■



Make plans now to attend the June 22-24, 2017, state convention in Houston at the Hyatt Regency Hotel! ■

## Spectacular Texas Arts Retreat

The next STAR is scheduled for **January 13-15, 2017**. The deadline for STAR 2017 registration is January 1, 2017.

Make a **deposit of \$100.00 now** to hold your place. Final payment of \$125 is due by November 15, 2016. After November 15, 2016, the registration fee goes up to \$250.

[STAR 2017 Registration Form](#)  
[STAR Facebook page.](#)

**Hint:** Our **Denise Barker** attended STAR last year, so she's a great source of insider info. Talk with Denise if you think you might be interested in attending. 😊 ■

## 2017 State Convention



## DKG Southwest Regional News

### 2017 Southwest Regional Conference



**Save the Date:** July 4-7, 2017, Sheraton Waikiki in Honolulu, Hawaii—"Experience the Lifestyle of Aloha." ■

DKG

## International News



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

### Purposes

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International has seven basic *purposes* that govern its program of work and study. The activities of each level of the Society implement the *purposes* of the Society. <https://www.dkg.org/content/purposes> ■

### Vision Statement

Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide ■

## Projects

- Schools for Africa (SfA) [usforumdkg.org](http://usforumdkg.org)  
<https://www.dkg.org/content/schools-africa-0>
- Support Early-career Educators (SEE)  
<https://www.dkg.org/content/see-support-early-career-educators> ■



### President and Theme, 2016-2018

Carolyn Pittman  
DKG—Leading Women Educators  
Impacting Education Worldwide

**Editor's Note:** Be sure to read Pittman's essay "The Butterfly Effect and our vision" on page 2 of the Sep/Oct 2016 edition of

DKG News. <http://www.dkg.org/DKGMember/Publications/DKG-NEWS.aspx>

*"DKG, because of what multiple individuals do, moves lives." ■*

## The U.S. Forum

The [United States Forum](#) supports non-partisan federal legislation in the interests of education and women educators.

It provides U.S. members of DKG with relevant information on pending issues and legislator contact numbers to enable more effective advocacy.

At the national, regional, state, and chapter levels, the US Forum serves as a vehicle for members to participate in making DKG's Purposes come to fruition through action.

<http://www.usforumdkg.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/DKG.US.Forum>

*The U.S. Forum Connection* is a free monthly e-newsletter designed to keep members informed about current legislation affecting education, women, and children. *Connection* subscribers can receive state-specific information that impacts the legislative process by sending a request to [bedenbaugh.angela@gmail.com](mailto:bedenbaugh.angela@gmail.com) ■

## CTAUN



The Committee on Teaching about the United Nations (CTAUN) provides educators opportunities to learn about the United Nations and its work. Through events and resources available on the website, CTAUN assists teachers in efforts to incorporate global awareness into classroom curricula and activities.

*Upcoming CTAUN Conference:*

*Friday, January 27, 2017: "Refugees: The 21st Century Challenge."*

Register for the Conference [here](#).

United Nations Headquarters  
New York, NY

[www.teachun.org](http://www.teachun.org) or <http://www.ctaun.org/> ■

## Communications and Publicity Committee Publication: *Get Connected!* November/December 2016



Read about the new communications and publicity committee blog and resources available on the international website.

Also, note that members have a new white rose logo to use.

[November/December 2016 Get Connected](#) ■

## 2018 International Convention



**Save the date:** July 16-20, 2018, JW Marriott, Austin, Texas.

If you are interested in helping with this endeavor, please contact Convention Chair JoAnn Brooks at [joannbrooks@verizon.net](mailto:joannbrooks@verizon.net) ■

## Lisbon, Seville, Madrid, & the Basque Country with DKG

*13 days, Summer 2017*

Within the borders of one small area, you'll find impressively distinct destinations. Relive the Age of Discovery in Lisbon, and discover Moorish influences in exotic Andalusia. Fast-forward to the present day to feast on tapas, drink sangria, and join the night life in Madrid before ending in the Basque Country, where an impressive culinary scene shines.

<http://portugalandspaindkg.grouptoursite.com/> ■

DKG

*Photos in The 4:15 were taken by and/or used with the permission of Joy Burger, Chris Brunner, Cathy Criner, Marilyn Gregory, Lou McMillan, Marilyn Nease, Carolyn Pittman, Margaret Thompson, Mary White, and Pixabay.*

*Graphic art is by Maura Anderson, DKG, and Pixabay.* ■