

THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA  
SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

Volume 52, Issue 3

Editor: Sara Ranzau

# Eta Xi Roses

Area VI, Chapter #182  
Kerrville, TX  
November 2016

Website

Credit Sara Ranzau

## Teacher Achievement Award



## Mission Statement

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.

## DKG History

### *The Founders*

We would like to congratulate our first three Teacher Achievement Award Nominees! We are very excited to be able to give such outstanding women the credit they deserve! To read more about each of our nominees, click their names.

Join us at our meeting on November 12<sup>th</sup> to see who our Achievement Award committee chose as our first winner!

[Dr. Holly Lambert](#) – Nominated by Duane Kroeker

[Stacey Blair](#) – Nominated by Tammy Wren

[Amy Havis](#) – Nominated by Maggie Portillo

Did you know that The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International has a Coat of Arms? Like every coat of arms throughout history, ours is unique to our organization. Each symbol on it has a special meaning. These symbols represent what our society values.

Come to the next chapter meeting to find out what it looks like and what each symbol means.

## Save the Date!

December 2  
**Bella Vita** – 6PM

Join us for a social gathering and our Christmas Dinner!

January 15

Deadline for the next submission in the newsletter

February 14  
4:30 Ryan Hall

Join us for our next meeting!





## 2017 Convention

June 22 – 24, 2017

Hyatt Regency Downtown

**HURRY TO**



Click [HERE](#) to update your member information!

### Social Networking

We are moving into the 21<sup>st</sup> century! If you are social-media savvy, visit and like our Facebook page! Our chapter website and social media pages are also up and active! Go visit them and share your thoughts with our webmaster,

Chris Simone: [dkgetaxitexas.weebly.com](http://dkgetaxitexas.weebly.com)

[Delta Kappa Gamma Eta Xi](#)

[Instagram](#)

State and International Social Media

[DKG – Texas State Organization](#)

[The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International](#)

[Delta Kappa Gamma @DKG SI](#)

## Happy Birthday!!

### November

13 Dana Dunagan  
15 Julie Murray  
23 Cathy Martin  
26 Susan McCollum  
29 Susan Hemfelt  
29 Kelly Dunigan

### December

6 Chris Simone  
7 Linda Worden  
25 Beverly Serr

### Contribute to Our Newsletter!

We want to hear more from you! Our goal is to make our newsletter more exciting, educational, and full of the color you add to the world around you! To contribute pictures, interesting articles you've read or written, or share your artistic abilities, email Sara Ranzau at

[etaxnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:etaxnewsletter@gmail.com)

**Next Deadline: January 15, 2017**



Credit Sharon Claiborn



Credit Sharon Claiborn

## A Message from the Presidents



### From Eunice

Can you believe we are only 11 school days from our Thanksgiving holidays? And then we slide into Christmas decorations, celebrations, and holiday traditions. Now back from our future to THIS Saturday when we will have our DKG meeting where we welcome our guest panel of educators who will give some of their free time to inform us of current aspects of local education. We would like to have a strong presence of our members so please make every effort to attend, and invite a colleague!

### From Sara

Thank goodness we are almost to

Thanksgiving break! I am exhausted! That being said, one of the most rewarding parts of my life as an educator has been to work with you all. As we received the information about our first Achievement Award nominees and worked to build a panel of local education experts for our meeting on Saturday, I felt not only honored to be at the head of such a great group but also the weight of importance. As educators, both in-service and retired, we have touched the lives of countless students and that is a remarkable feat. Just think of the lives we have changed and continue to change because we are not afraid to care, learn, grow, and educate.

So, this Thanksgiving season, one of the things I am most thankful for is the strength I gain from all of you.



## Chapter Officers

Your Chapter Officers for the 2016-2018 Biennium

To email any of your officers, click on their underlined names

Co-Presidents – Eunice McCoy and Sara Ranzau

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Linda Stegall

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Dana Dunagan

Recording & Corresponding Secretary – Cathy Barkley

Parliamentarian – Nancy Smith

Treasurer – Jeannie Zirkel

Webmaster – Chris Simone

Membership Chair – Cathy Martin

Chapter Rules

## Local Educator Panel

We are excited to continue down the path we began in October with a discussion including local education experts. As you know, education changes on a regular basis, and it is often hard to know just how small districts are affected. On Saturday, we will hear from and be able to discuss some of those issues with members of the staff, administrations, and central offices of several of the school districts we serve.

We are pleased that our new member Shelby Balsler will speak as an authority on the secondary schools here in the Kerrville district. Holly Jones who will speak on behalf of the elementary schools in KISD will join her.

In addition to these two women, Counselor Verleen Wallace from Hunt ISD, who was an Eta Xi scholarship recipient in 2000, will join us. We also have Mindy Merkel from Ingram ISD, she is principal at the middle school there. Finally, Casey Johnson from Center Point ISD will join us with his voice as the Assistant Superintendent.

We look forward to hearing what all of these educators have to share with us. Come ready to learn and engage!



### Visit International, TSO, and ASTEF!

Looking for information about what is happening in DKG? Check these out!

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

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

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

[Lone Star News](#)

Log into your DKG account using your member number and the password:  
dkg society2014

### Chapter Reports

To access the minutes and treasurer's reports, click the blue links. Please read each before our next meeting in November so any necessary changes can be made at the time.

[MINUTES](#)

[TREASURER'S REPORT](#)

[HOSPITALITY PLAN & CALENDAR](#)

## Guess Who??

Last issue's answer:  
Linda Worden

Who would like to travel all over the world, including ziplining through the rain forest in Costa Rica?

### Member Contacts

New Member  
Recommendation  
Form

Teacher  
Achievement  
Award  
Information

## RAISING FUNDS

Don't forget to bring your dollar for the brag bag!

Be prepared for more fundraisers this year as we work to grow our scholarship fund.

Education News  
from Around  
the State

Credit Sandy DuBose and Matt Boyd

## It Takes a Village

By Ellie Butler

Thinking about my time at Tivy, I recall being extremely focused on my journey to establish my self as an entity that existed despite the way I viewed my education. I convinced myself that who I grew into was not affected by the environment around me; if I had a bad teacher it was an inconvenience, and if I had an amazing teacher it was refreshing, but overall inconsequential. Only when I got to UT did I realize how drastically my teachers shaped me. In some instances, I spent more time with my teachers than with my own parents. This fact manifested itself in simple ways like shaping my taste in music and major ways such as how I cope with failure and emotional distress.

The attitudes at play in Kerrville truly embody the African proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child." Every teacher I had in school taught me a different lesson about life. Some years, I learned restraint and aplomb when opinions clashed, and the importance of preserving personal integrity when others tried to silence my voice. The moral of the story lies in the journey, not in the grade at the end of the semester - education is not a dichotomy of success or failure. The most important thing this vibrant community produces for its students is the idea that we never stop learning. The culture within this unique community is one that encourages learning outside of the assigned subjects.

By having such a diverse and authentic group of men and women teaching us, we have the privilege of learning beautiful things about the world in an environment that appreciates the malleability of young

minds. After all, important lessons are not always easy, but that is what makes them worth the struggle.

As my experience with life grows, I can look back on my years in Kerrville and truly appreciate the people who taught me. I am not able to pinpoint any one person who definitively made me who I am today. My character has been weaved together into a beautiful tapestry by all the people who have taught me. I owe many parts of my character to my teachers. Some of the most special and memorable moments for me have been when I realized my teachers were not perfect, but instead they were normal people with extraordinary passions for their craft.

This fact is something that propels me forward in my education. The dedication of educators to their students is not a common motif in my peers' past, and I find that each day I am grateful for the collective of people who have lifted me up.

The thing that makes the local culture of education in Kerrville unique is that there are very few places where students from all walks of life can go into a school and receive such a consistently stellar amount of care and enthusiasm from their teachers.

Looking back now, I realize how difficult it is to be a teacher. There are bad days, battles lost, and kids who break your heart, but I am immeasurably grateful for the teachers who are amazing in spite of those things. Kerrville teachers have taught me that being human is not about being perfect, but rather about being open to every single lesson that life will inevitably throw my way.

Ellie is a second generation UT student. She is in her first semester and is a corporate communications major.



# Upcoming Events

## Programs

February 14, 2017

The Faces of the Future

First Presbyterian Church, Ryan Hall, Kerrville

4:30 PM

Join us to learn about the culture of our local schools with a panel of educators and students!



## Don't Forget

January 15, 2017

If you would like something included in the newsletter, this is the deadline!

## Social Sisterhood

Join us December 2, 2016 as we celebrate Christmas and friendship!  
Bella Vita in Kerrville at 6PM

## Eta Xi Chapter

c/o Sara Ranzau  
179 Twin Canyon Dr.  
Boerne, TX 78006