

Eta Delta Data



Eta Delta Chapter 172 Area 3, Houston
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, Texas State Organization

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

Vision Statement: Leading women educators impacting educators worldwide.

Ann Mahan, editor, annmahan@comcast.net



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Jane Flinn



ETA DELTA BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

MARCH 7, 2015

TIME: 10:45-1:00

LOCATION: JUNIOR LEAGUE OF HOUSTON
1811 Briar Oaks
Houston 77027

INSPIRATION: ANN MAHAN

PROGRAM: Taking Care of Eta Delta Then and Now

FACILITATOR: DEBBIE MCCART

HOSTESSES: SOCIAL COMMITTEE
Martha LaRue*
Gerri Manlove
Kirbe Montgomery

REMINDER: Bring your **RED** Change for Children Box



Have you heard . . .

- **Ellen Pritchett** is getting married March 7th! Best wishes.
- **Kirby Gor** brought a prospective member to the February meeting. **Tina Hughes** is an A&M graduate who is the Sp. Ed. Chair at Cy-Ranch High School. Three others were also recommended: **Sue Ayers** of Lone Star College; **Karen Green**, sixth grade reading specialist in Cy-Fair, and **Lindsey Krumrise** in technology.
- **Brenda Paulk** is going on a mission trip to the Philippines with her church.

Dear Sisters,

On Saturday, March 7, 2015, we will gather to celebrate the 52nd birthday of Eta Delta. In 1963, a group of key women educators dedicated to education and furthering the purposes of The Delta Kappa Gamma International Society formed our chapter, Eta Delta. Their vision set a high standard of excellence that we are challenged to meet fifty-two years later. The legacy of Jean Alloway, Mary Lois Barden, Clara Bolander, Stelle Claughton, Mabel Easley, Versie Garrett, Ann Gibson, Masel Hughes, Nell Langston, Sally Rushmeyer, and Stella Schmidt, to name a few, lives on in Eta Delta today through our support for new teachers, outreach to schools and the community, programs that address critical issues in education and personal improvement, and attracting members with a shared passion for education and learning.

Happy Birthday Eta Delta! May we always exemplify the standards set by our Charter Members, the Texas State Organization, and The Delta Kappa Gamma International Society.

Looking forward to celebrating with you,

Jane



Just a thought . . .

Everything we hear is an opinion, not a fact. Everything we see is a perspective, not the truth. Marcus Aurelius

Laws and Education

The state of education is a political popular topic: lots of opinions, lots of promises, few positive actions. Legislators mandate changes deemed “the best way to fix education,” but rarely observe the educators’ needs and preferences. Or, at least, so it seems.

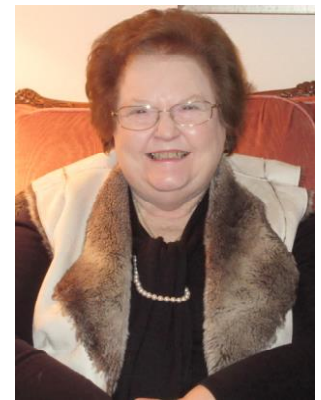
Sometimes the proposals represent an honest approach to improve conditions for both students and teachers, but far too seldom. Even if the policy is a good one, without funding little happens in a timely manner.

Dr. Debra Rockefeller, the Executive Director for Academic Support in the Office of Academic Affairs at Lone Star College, presented an informative program regarding the legislative process for getting bills passed and the responsibilities of teachers to take an active interest and participation in those related to education.

She urged the young and still working teachers to keep up with TRS—the actions of today impact their tomorrow. We were all reminded that one voice can make a difference; many can cause change.




Program speaker, Dr. Debra Rockefeller



Special Guest, Area 3 Coordinator Betty Jo Watts



 <h3>March Birthdays</h3>	
<i>Texas Independence Day</i>	2 (179 th)
<i>Ann Mahan</i>	4
<i>Ellen Pritchett</i>	6
<i>Helen Lewis</i>	19



Brenda Paulk presents Sinclair Elementary kindergarten teacher **Emily Mingle** with Eta Delta’s gift.



Get the STAR Treatment 2

Sign up for the 2016 STAR retreat at Camp Allen. You, too, can be a STAR. All instruction in crafts, music, drama, yoga, dance—you name it—is for first timers who want to try something new as well as the more experienced.

A deposit of \$100 now with a final payment of \$125 by November 1, 2015, includes you in a wonderful experience. The reservation includes room at Camp Allen, delicious meals, and all supplies.

If you are interested, you can go online at dkgtxas.org. It will be a holiday weekend, so even working teachers can join in.



NEW MEMBERS & CONVENTIONS: PART III

As the time nears to take action regarding the 86th Texas State Convention, I want to conclude by offering a few practical suggestions. These are the details often assumed rather than explained. Please plan to join us in San Antonio June 24-27. I promise you’ll be glad you did.

PRACTICAL TIPS AND INFORMATION

- As soon as the announcement of the **convention** hotel is released, get a reservation. Cancelling a reservation is far easier than getting one later. The action is in the convention hotel; don’t miss anything!
- Apply for Eta Delta’s First Timers scholarship of \$100.
- Find a roommate to share the hotel expenses.
- Decide to drive or fly. Southwest usually flies to the cities where conventions meet.
- Watch for the convention registration form in the *Lone Star News*.

- Sign up for the Birthday Luncheon on Friday and the Founders Banquet on Saturday night.
- Take advantage of sessions marked free but needing a reservation.
- Wear comfortable clothing and shoes such as you would wear to a chapter meeting or to school for parent night. Dress a little nicer for the luncheon and dressiest for the banquet.
- Plan to work and play. The *Lone Star News* prints a preliminary convention schedule that allows you to plan. Usually only minor changes occur in the schedule.
- Remember BYOB—Bring Your Own Bag.



Making Learning Stick

By Bonnie Moore

As neuroscience continues to advance and tell us more about the brain, we are discovering more about how students and teachers learn. Studies show that adults can only give their fully undivided attention for no more than 20 minutes at a time. Students between the ages of 10-18 give no more than 12 minutes of focused engagement. With such a small window of true engagement time, how do we make the learning stick so that students and staff can continue to grow, learn and realize their potential?

To maximize learning, we must be aware that things like multitasking, interruptions, and exterior factors become distracters or even an enemy of learning. Therefore, we need to use strategies that help us develop students and staff in ways that increases learning, retention and application. Drs. Josh Davis and David Rock of the NeuroLeadership Institute have proposed, tested and used the AGES model. This model of focusing on **Attention, Generation, Emotions and Spacing** in instructional design and delivery increases all aspects of learning.

Attention is the time in which someone is truly focused before he/she needs a refresher of the concepts and material. To keep the brain engaged, you must employ techniques for capturing or rejuvenating attention. Allowing learners to have downtime or to introduce something novel or unexpected allows the brain to stop, recharge and refocus on the concept/task at hand. Multitasking doesn't provide additional focus time and often produces interruptions that contribute to reduced focus and attention. To make learning last, aim for a single focus of attention on the point and then continue to refresh the learning by spacing.

Generation is the act of creating and sharing one's connections to new or presented ideas. The act of generation or making connections is what matters, not the depth or brilliance of the generation. Peer learning, group work, and storytelling are all methods of social information generation. Connecting to information with self and/or others creates rich networks of association and helps us make the connections needed to make the learning stick. Relating the content and materials to one's own ideas, experience or thinking will also provide generation.

Emotions definitely influence learning and positivity is better than negativity. Positive emotions that are part of learning can aid creativity, insight and to expand perception. All of these are very helpful in initial learning as well as the application of learning.

Spacing is having a period of time usually a day or more between learning and the review of the learning. By spacing the concepts and application over a longer period of time allows the students and staff to sleep between learning sessions. Sleep is essential for long-term retention and provides opportunities for increased memory. By returning to the learning and its application over a longer period of time, we raise the opportunities for greater learning and therefore increased success.

Learning is the central premise of education. Our goal is to help each student and staff member fully learn. Using the **AGES** model allows us as educators to use the current science for the learning, growth and achievement for all.



Language of the Universe

By Brenda Paulk

Music is a universal language, which was a good thing for fifty-seven of us from Texan who arrived in Budapest June 30, 2014. From Budapest to Vienna to Prague, I went singing through Europe. Through music our group could “talk” to our hosts.

Arriving in Budapest, two Italian young ladies holding signs reading “Encore” welcomed our group of singers and musicians—the Festival Choir—to Central Europe and assisted us in boarding two buses. The weary travelers welcomed sleep.

The next day, the group toured the city of Budapest before performing for a full house at Matthias Church, named for King Matthias whose rule was known as the Golden Age of Medieval Hungary; he was also a patron of the poor. The performance was a mix of classical, traditional, and gospel music, but “I Bowed My Knees and Cried Holy,” a solo, brought down the house with thunderous applause and two encores! This opening night experienced filled their hearts to overflowing and created an indelible memory.

Next on the itinerary was Vienna. The Renaissance Hotel in Vienna brought sighs of relief and delight. The hotel even had air conditioning and washcloths (something we all take for granted).

Under the direction of the Artistic Director of the Vienna Boys Choir, 150 singers from 36 countries performed as a group. For the evening concert, the singers climbed 120 circular stone stairs to the lofty attic of St Stephen's Cathedral, a rare and preferential experience. The concert was marvelous with all those voices filling the cathedral!

“Every where we went, we were warmly welcomed and the scenery was magnificent.” It was a marvelous experience.



In the early years, treatment for and of the insane qualifies as cruel, inhumane, even criminal by today's standards. Women were especially vulnerable as men determined the actions that justified having the women committed—and the women had no legal recourse. Males had absolute physical and legal power over wives, daughters, sisters, mothers. Parents expected—demanded—obedience from children, especially girls. Rebellion and teenagers are synonymous, and often adults respond badly to typical teenage behavior.

In *Want She Left Behind*, Ellen Marie Wiseman explores the situation of Clara, a rich and pampered young woman who defies her father because she loves a man from the wrong class, and of Izzy who feels unwanted as she moves from foster family to foster family. Clara is eighteen in 1929; Izzy is seventeen in 1995. The author alternates the stories of Clara and Izzy as Clara's story explains the items Izzy finds in the old trunk. Both young women feel thrown away and unloved, at the mercy of an impersonal system that controls their futures; yet, each discovers the power of love.

When Clara vigorously opposes her father, he calls the police and has her taken to the Long Island Home for Nervous Invalids, a luxurious spa-like mansion, nevertheless an institute for the mentally unstable. Clara's father says her confinement is temporary, for her to get proper treatment. Unless her father comes to take her home, Clara must stay until the doctor and her father are convinced she is "cured." The stock market crash gives her father an excuse to discontinue paying for the expensive Home; instead, he moves her to the state-run Willard Asylum for the insane that "looked more like a haunted mansion than a place designed to help people." Upon her arrival at Willard, Clara is told to select a pair of sturdy shoes and several changes of clothes from her steamer trunk. The trunk would be put in storage until her release.

Izzy has spent ten years attempting to block out the image of her bloody father shot by her insane mother. When her grandmother dies, Izzy begins to cut herself. "That was when she realized physical pain made emotional pain disappear for a few minutes." Izzy goes to a series of foster families before living with Peg and Harry. For the first time, Izzy has a foster family who seems to care, and she "began to realize cutting herself was crazy." Peg, a museum curator, learns that the long-abandoned Willard Asylum is to be torn down and she gains permission to help safeguard "anything that might be worth keeping."

For Peg, having the opportunity to go through things left behind at an old state asylum is a chance to glimpse the lives of the owners. For her, the stacks of suitcases and crates, is "an absolute treasure trove," the items "just as important as an archeological dig." Izzy, however, wonders "what horrors" the items had witnessed. Unaware of Izzy's fears of going insane, Peg asks Izzy to go with her to Willard to help catalog the items. Clara's steamer trunk offers the most interesting items. The quality and the odd assortment of clothing and other items spark Izzy's curiosity as she records each one.

Both the Long Island Home and the Willard Asylum are real places; the conditions of the building and the treatment of the patients represent standards of the time. The stories of Clara

and Izzy are fictional but compelling. Anyone who has ever looked at old items in a museum and wondered who the owner was and how the items fit into that life will appreciate *What She Left Behind*.



ETA DELTA 2014-2016 OFFICERS	
JANE FLINN	<i>President</i>
DEBBIE MCCART	<i>First Vice President</i>
MARTHA LARUE	<i>Second Vice President</i>
DEBBIE ELROD	<i>Secretary</i>
NANCY MALONE	<i>Treasurer</i>
DONNA PATCH	<i>Parliamentarian</i>

Eta Delta Website
dkgalphastateetadelta.weebly.com

Alpha State Headquarters in **Dallas**
NEW WEB: dkgtexas.org

International Headquarters in **Austin**
dkg.org



LOOKING AHEAD

Here we come!

86th Texas State Convention
June 24-27, 2015
San Antonio

Do you have your reservation yet?

87th Texas State Convention
Dallas

88th Texas State Convention
Houston

Southwest Regional Conference
July 22-25, 2015
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Wichita, Kansas

2016 International Convention
Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center
Nashville, Tennessee
July 5-9, 2016

2018 International Convention
JW Marriott
Austin, Texas
July 16-20