

Eta Mu Musings

WINTER 2023 VOLUME LV, No. 2

NEWS OF ETA MU CHAPTER AREA XVII DKG CA

DKG CA-Invitation to a New Beginning

**DELTA KAPPA GAMMA
SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL**

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 Education
Worldwide

A "TOP TEN" DKG CA NEWSLETTER 2021



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Welcoming Words from Our Presidents



Hello, Eta Mu Sisters.

It was so good to see several of you at our December VAPA event, The Nutcracker, followed by a delicious dinner at Skewers. We have several more fun events coming up in the remainder of this Eta Mu year and we encourage you to join us for each and every one. Food is the theme of our next three meetings: the Souper Supper in January, Debbie Mar's Chinese Cooking Demonstration in February, and the Potato Fest in March. Who could resist all that deliciousness?!!

As always, carpooling is available and encouraged, so contact us any time you'd like a ride to an Eta Mu meeting or activity. We're looking forward to building community and becoming an even stronger DKG chapter in 2023!

Judy Trask and Linda Chrabas, Co-Presidents ❄️



DKG California: Educational – Professional - Making an Impact

CURRENT NEWS AND EVENTS

January Soup'n Stuff and Jared Boxes



On Thursday, January 19th at 6:00 PM we will meet for a delicious selection of soups, rolls, and desserts at the home of Judy Trask. If you haven't yet submitted your Evite RSVP, please do so as soon as possible.

Eta Mu members will also be filling shoe boxes once again to support the Jared Box Project. These boxes of books, games, toys, drawing materials, and more are donated to a local hospital to lift the spirits of chronically ill children.



This month is also one in which Janice Freeman will collect our donations of money, toiletries, or school supplies for the Modesto Gospel Mission.

(From Janice: "Just a reminder, Sisters! January is one of the three times a year we collect donations to support the Modesto Gospel Mission's Women and Children's programs. Donations in check form should be made out directly to the Modesto Gospel Mission, and we also accept books, teaching materials, school supplies, travel size toiletries and plastic shopping bags. Thank you!")

So come prepared to enjoy a wonderful meal with your Eta Mu sisters and join them in supporting our community through our time and donations.

And the Winners Were...



At the Area XVII 2022 Fall Conference, Adele, Clare, Heather and Carol each won a raffle basket! The raffle baskets were amazing, and the sales netted \$685 for Early Career Educator Awards.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

It was great to hear Fallon Ferris, the Equity, and Intervention Specialist for Modesto City Schools, share the equity updates for the district at a recent chapter meeting. There were wonderful discussions with Eta Mu's sisters and Fallon. Fallon appreciated the comments and will enthusiastically share them with her colleagues. Fallon is Dawn's former student.



Delta Kappa Gamma Eta Mu Chapter Events 2023

| | |
|-------------|---|
| January 19 | Soup'n'Stuff-Jared Boxes and Gospel Mission Donations 🍲 |
| January 20 | DKG Ca Virtual Leadership Seminar |
| February 24 | Chinese New Year Cooking Lesson 🥡🥢 |
| March 2 | Read Across America At MLD and Eisenhower Schools 📚 |
| March 15 | Potato Fest and Bunco Night 🥔♠️ |
| April 17 | Program Meeting/ Master Gardener 🧑🌱 |
| May 5-7 | DKG CA Convention, Burlingame 🌹 |
| June 3 | Garden Party 🏡🌸 |

MEMBER NEWS

Member Highlight



DAWN PITCOCK, ETA MU SECRETARY

Submitted by Debbie Mar

One of our newest members, Dawn Pitcock, is no stranger to the education field. She was hired at La Loma Junior High to teach Science and Language Arts, but when it was pointed out that she didn't have an ELA Credential, her assignment was switched to Science and Opportunity Class. Opportunity Class is a misnomer for "Last Opportunity to get Through Junior High the Right Way." This was a self-contained class with varying skill levels and different challenges, both behavioral as well as academic. It was created for students who could not sit through a full day of class for a variety of reasons. Dawn, being the determined young teacher she was, wanted to do the best possible job and succeeded in doing so. She went on to teach other subjects that included regular Science, Honors Science, Study Hall (for students who had no study skills), AVID, and coached the Science Olympiad and founded the La Loma Science Fair-now called STEM Faire. She has also been (and is currently) the Science Department Chairperson during the time when science teachers were asked to take a pivot in the teaching standards away from standard practice "learn the factoids and apply" to the "learn by discovery" method. In the early 2000's she also helped to write an application for a Technology Grant with Theresa Foote. Dawn has also completed her M.A. in Education, with Distinction, and has filled in as an assistant principal for a short period of time to assist her school while they searched for someone to fill the position.



Dawn considers the highlight of her teaching career to be the relationships with her students and their families. She delights in being invited to the weddings and baby showers of former students! In 2012 she was a finalist in The Teacher of the Year Award by Stanislaus County and has been nominated multiple times for the PAESMT, the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Mathematics. Among

DKG California: Educational – Professional - Making an Impact

her greatest challenges has been learning to work with a consistently changing administration. She has had 10 principals in her 28 years of teaching. She was often trying to get people to listen to what is best for the students-- how to change things on site and address the needs of students. Over the years there had been a change in the demographics of the school. Students used to come with more solid skills and more support from home. Now there is a need for Trauma Based Education and Social Emotional Learning due to the factors beginning in the home environment and compounded recently by the effects Covid has had on education. For example, one of her students was homeless and living in a car. Once the battery in the car died, he no longer could finish his homework, AND could not get to school on time, which carried its own consequences as well. Dawn claims she once had a super woman complex-if something needed to be done, she would just do it, even if it was something that wasn't directly related to her own students. She would spend at least two days at school until 7:00 PM and one full day on weekends each week prepping for classes. Now she realizes she can't keep up that pace forever and has made efforts to reduce workloads not vital to the success of her students and herself.



Dawn's advice to young teachers is to find the balance early. You can't accomplish everything you want to do by yourself. You must collaborate with other teachers. Make sure you put your family first. She learned that while on Maternity Leave, she was easily replaced. Treat yourself on a regular basis to a massage. Invest in your retirement-start planning now because it comes faster than you think. Financial Literacy is not taught.

One of the best things about DKG is "being able to interact with super smart women who give good advice!" This great inner connection of like-minded women has been a form of self-care for her. Dawn has enjoyed her time spent with her DKG sisters and looks forward to fulfilling her role this term as the Secretary for our chapter.

Member Birthdays: Happy Birthday to You!



January ❄️

- 16 Judy April
- 20 Mary Lou Dieterich
- 28 Roberta Bica
- 29 Ty George

February ❤️

- none

March 🍀

- 14 Lynn Lysko
- 16 Heather Nonaca
- 26 Valerie Spencer
- 28 Betty Harrell

SISTER TO SISTER



From Adele Little: Many thanks to my Eta Mu sisters for their kind support during Stan's hospitalization in November. I appreciated all the thoughts, prayers, visits, and meals provided to us. Special thanks to Kathleen, Debbie, Joyce, Judy, and Janice for the wonderful meals and delicious treats. All were enjoyed and appreciated.

From Lynn Lysko: After 20 very happy years there, Richard and I have sold our home and have moved to a rental in Modesto till our new home in Texas is completed. Thanks to all who have made our lives here in Modesto so wonderful and special!



Wendy Bruce was selected as a protégé by the Leadership Development Network that is working on Diversity-Equity-Inclusion to broaden the membership base. She will be guided by committee members to develop leadership skills.

Heather Nonaca has been nominated by a colleague for the Gilder Lehrman National History Teacher of the Year Award. We congratulate her!

Heather Nonaca will be presenting at the DKG California Convention in May. Let's support her by going to her session.

Pat Elston and Kathleen Heinzinger will be on the State Nominations Committee (pending the vote at the convention) for the 2023-2025 biennium.

ETA MU SUPPORTS OUR COMMUNITY



Member Adele Little is part of the Literacy Network. She invites all members to please save the date for the 24th Annual Awards Luncheon of the Literacy Network of Stanislaus County. Friday, March 3, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., at the Petersen Event Center, 720 12th Street, Modesto.

Eta Mu supports Modesto Gospel Mission with donations from members. Here is a one-minute video about the impact of the MGM on one man.
<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=rTPe7Eceaq8>



Mike was headed down a path of hopelessness, knocking at death's door. Today, he is the Master Roaster of Volente Coffee. The Modesto Gospel Mission has launched a social enterprise bringing specialty coffee to the Central Valley, while training men and women applicable work skills to help launch them into self-sufficiency.

EDUCATION LAW AND POLICY UPDATE



2023 Legislative Study Session Registration Opens in February

When: Tue, June 20, 2023, 12pm – Thu, June 22, 2023, 3pm

Where: Virtual

Description: Learn about pending legislation and educational policies and speak with your legislators and other policy makers.

There is still time to register for the **Leadership Seminar**. Registration has been extended to January 17. You may also apply for a scholarship.



"Leadership Lessons from Trailblazer Dr. Belle Wheelan"

Virtual Leadership Seminar January 20 -21, 2023

- Friday Evening, January 20: 7:00-8:00 PM (optional)
 - Setting the Stage by Leadership Development
- Saturday, January 21: 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
 - Dr. Wheelan Keynote Address
 - Moderated Questions & Answers
 - Breakouts Facilitated by Leadership Development

Dr. Belle Wheelan is the President of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and Schools Commission on Colleges (the first African American and the first woman to serve in this capacity). The Leadership Development Committee is excited to bring Dr. Wheelan back after she was enthusiastically received at the 2022 DKG California Convention! She will help us explore leadership challenges, the impact of mentorships / sponsorships, and the role leaders play ensuring a diverse, equitable, and inclusive organization. Members and non-members are encouraged to attend.

DON'T FORGET TO SAVE THE DATE!
ETA MU MEMBERS NEED YOUR SUPPORT!



Registration opens in February. Mark your calendar and make your plans now!

DKG International Vision Statement:
Key Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide

