



# Theta Alpha Chatter

An Honorary Professional Society of Key Women Educators  
Leading women educators impacting education worldwide

The Delta Kappa  
Gamma  
Society International

Texas State  
Organization

Theta Alpha Chapter  
Chapter 193  
Area IX  
Dallas County

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

Chapter President:  
Beverly Hagood  
rhagood@swbell.net

Editor:  
Kristi John  
Corps-wife@msn.com

Correspondence sent to:  
Leslie Valentincic  
lvalentincic@gmail.com

Chapter Website:  
dkgthetaalpha.weebly.com

Theta Alpha Chapter  
Meeting Dates  
2013 - 2014

August 17, 2013  
September 21, 2013  
October 19, 2013  
November 16, 2013  
December 21, 2013  
January 18, 2014  
February 15, 2014  
March 15, 2014  
April 26, 2014  
May 17, 2014



## Message from the President



Now that the holidays are upon us, we have a tendency to blend in with all of the hustle and bustle of the frantic shoppers and to listen to the blaring store announcements beseeching us to take advantage of their specials and bargains. Along with Thomas Kinkade let us rather do the opposite: slow down and "Watch for surprises. A tree full of butterflies...a fresh breeze on a hot day...a simple unexpected sense that all is well." (*Family Traditions*) As always, all year round we need to express our thankfulness and gratitude for all our blessings, no matter how minute they may be. The holidays help to magnify our thoughts of all for which we are truly thankful: health, love, and peace. May God bless you and our nation as we approach the holidays...sl-ow-ly.

Theta Alpha, the wonderfully inspiring, energetic chapter that we are, can be grateful for its forty engaging members who are full of resourceful ideas and ways to exhibit our mission to the community and to the world. November is the month that the Theta Alpha Nominating Committee embarks on the awesome task of acquiring a slate of new officers for the upcoming biennium. Please remember that if you are asked to take a position as a new officer, it is because Theta Alpha knows that you have the courage to lead and to inspire the members of our chapter. Remember our courageous founder, Dr. Annie Webb Blanton and her vision in 1929 of forming a group of passionate, dedicated women educators to aid in the betterment of education. As Dr. Blanton was responsible for forming an amazing women educators' society, you too can be the one to make Theta Alpha remarkable! Dr. Beverly Helms, DKG's present International President, reminds us that "You may be only one, but never forget, there is power in one and you may be the one

who makes the difference." You can make the difference- please step up and lead!

The CTAUN Conference, an intimate group of a little over 100 participants, was awe-inspiring and, needless to say, very thought-provoking (Please see related article.). Theta Alpha members Patti Belknap, TSO CTAUN representative, Kristi John, Kathy Nichols, and Michelle Grandinetti helped with the organization of the conference. Other members who attended were Catie King, Leslie Valentincic, Baudelia Luna, and Bev Hagood. Kristi's two teenage daughters, Sierra and Sage, also were inspired to attend the conference as were other students from the Metroplex. Also in attendance were Connie Rensink (Chair of CTAUN conference and area ten Coordinator), TSO President Nancy Newton and TSO officers Betty Vines and Jo Murphy who too were responsible for promoting the conference. "Big things come in small packages" as all of us who attended the conference would agree!

Are you ready for the two Theta Alpha activities that re-energize and rejuvenate the chapter? I can hardly wait for both of the activities that are full of sharing and camaraderie! The first activity is coming up at our November meeting: the Silent and Live Auctions which are our sources for acquiring monies for the support of our Julia Crawford Grant-in-Aid, which is given to a deserving woman education major, and for the support of our THAT Project which aids early-career educators.

What is exciting about the auctions is that the chapter members display their unique talents in the way of crafts, ingenuity, and bake goods for all to purchase for our worthy causes! What fun it is to try to acquire that special item with hardy, healthy bidding. Trying to out-bid a sister can be quite a challenge, but what laughter it brings to our delightful November meeting! Now you can't miss such a wonderful time - a time when we

*Expand the Vision: Educate, Inspire, Encourage*

The Theta Alpha meeting in October was an outstanding success! Kudos to Patti Belknap and Kristi John for the outstanding presentation for the support of the Society's international project "Schools for Africa." Over \$200.00 was raised with the Purse Auction! A huge thanks goes out to all of the members who contributed lovely gently used purses for the auction! The remainder of the purses that weren't auctioned off were donated to Family Gateway of Dallas, a shelter that aids homeless families. Family Gateway was thrilled to have the purses along with the donated hygiene items provided for the women in the shelter.

The program also consisted of a jolly time for all of the members as they searched frantically in their bulging purses for items that Patti and Kristi requested. If an item was found, a sweet "kiss" was distributed to each member who had the item. Prizes were given for the most "kisses" collected! What a grand, relaxing time all of the members had!! Thanks to Patti and Kristi for providing Theta Alpha members with a unique outlet for chapter fun and for contributing to Theta Alpha's meaningful global and community service projects!

Family Gateway was truly grateful for all of the candy Theta Alpha members contributed to their "Boo Bash," a safe, secure Halloween activity held at the Family Gateway Center for all of the parents and children presently living at the center. Thank you, members, for your generosity to the children at Family Gateway!

Thank you to Baudelia Luna for reviewing for the members how Theta Alpha's contributions to "Schools for Africa" benefit the education for children in numerous countries in Africa. Roses to Babs Arnswald for melodiously leading Theta Alpha's music. Theta Alpha greatly appreciates the members who helped with "Annie Calling"-Sandra King, Marilyn Bishop, Baudelia Luna, Michelle Grandinetti, Patti Belknap, Catie King, Ann Wyatt, Janet Roark, and Bev Hagood.

As a part of the Society's support for early educators (SEE) and Theta Alpha's teachers helping another teacher (THAT), Dianne McCorcle presented each of the five early career recipients with a \$100.00 certificate to be used for purchasing items for her classroom. Hopefully, we can recruit these young educators into Delta Kappa Gamma.

Theta Alpha appreciates Dianne McCorcle's acquiring the Arcadia Park Library for the October meeting. The scrumptious refreshments were provided by Dianne McCorcle (Chair), Jan Gentry, Sandra King, Erica Campos, Michelle Fernandez, and Aurora Torres. What a joyous meeting we had in October! Theta Alpha looks forward to seeing all of the "missing members" (as well as "non-missing members") at the November meeting/auction. Can't wait to see all of you Saturday, November 16 for the rambunctious auction!

Bev Hagood, Theta Alpha President

give of ourselves and a time when we share in our mission and dedication to our educational projects! I know that I'll see all of you Theta Alpha Sisters (all forty of you) at the November 16 meeting with all of your fabulous contributions to tempt our most insatiable desires!...And remember to bring a guest or two or three!

The second Theta Alpha activity that works wonders for slowing us down during the zany holidays and enables us to relax and enjoy our special sisters is the Theta Alpha Holiday Tea. Besides experiencing the tasty delicacies afforded by a high French tea, we will have the lovely pleasure of enjoying the charming personalities of all of our delightful sisters and their guests. What more could you ask for during the busy holidays! Be sure to bring an ornament for the Annual Ornament Exchange. As Theta Alpha's demonstration of sharing with the community, we also are contributing hygiene boxes to our Captain Hope's Kids Project. Please don't forget to bring the much-needed boxes to the tea. The Holiday Tea not only rejuvenates the body, but also the spirit! Be sure to sign up for the "stimulating" tea at the November meeting!

During the holiday season may God's blessings be with all of you as you prepare to be with your loving families and friends and to find ways to share with others who are less fortunate.

Peace and blessings,

Bev Hagood, Theta Alpha President

## From Your A.C.

If you have ever worked on a farm or know someone who has, you can appreciate that harvesting crops is a task that requires long hours and strenuous work. The products that city dwellers enjoy appear in the market after many months of nurturing and worrying.

Sound familiar? Raising children, teaching, marriage, retirement, and many other aspects of our lives are much the same. And like our wonderful farmers, we hope that with a combination of love, care, patience, determination, persistence, prayer, and a little luck, we will reap the bounty that we envisioned.

Ladies, in this harvest season, I wish for each of you all of the bounty possible.

**Question of the Month:** World Fellowship—what is it?

**Membership Idea:** Remember, leadership does not mean having a title or wearing a pin. It is about identifying a need and filling it. Are you a leader?

A Most Happy Thanksgiving,  
Michelle Grandinetti  
Area 9 Coordinator  
mrgrand@mindspring.com



## November Meeting Details

There are wonderful scents in the air this time of year-- pumpkin bread, grapefruits, apples, cider & soon turkey. It means it's that time of the year once again when we stop and make a conscience effort to give thanks for our many blessings and joys. We are truly grateful for our family and friends, especially our Theta Alpha sisters.

Our October meeting was well attended and we were able to meet two of our New Teacher Grant-in-aid winners. The 5 awardees are: Jordyn Yates, first year 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher at Alexander Elementary, Duncanville ISD; Shannah Castillo, 1<sup>st</sup> year 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Alexander Elementary, Duncanville ISD; Elizabeth Follis, second year 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Veda Knox Elementary, Arlington ISD ; Diedre Freisleben, first year 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Veda Knox Elementary, Arlington ISD; Latrice Todd, first year 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher at Arcadia Park Elementary, Dallas ISD.

### November 16, 2013

Time: 10:00 a.m.  
 Place: The Meridian  
 2522 Fort Worth Ave.  
 Dallas, Texas  
 Agenda: Auction; presentation of Theta Alpha's Julia Crawford Grant-in-Aid; nominations committee meeting.  
 Inspiration: Marilyn Bishop  
 Hostesses: Beta Family

Please remember that for our auction to be a great success we need lots of fabulous crafts and holiday gifts. Don't forget the wonderful baked goods that we all look forward to. Also bring your friends and colleagues to share this wonderful event with us, plus they can share their wealth. Theta Alpha needs everyone's support if the chapter is to raise enough money to fund our Julia Crawford scholarship and our New Teacher grant-in-aid.

### Christmas Tea

Our annual tea will be December 7, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. at the Lavendou Restaurant 19009 Preston Road #200, Dallas, Texas. The cost will be \$23.00 (includes gratuity). We will have an ornament exchange and also provide hygiene boxes for Captain Hope's Kids.

Dianne McCorcle  
 Program of Work

## Membership

I would like to say a big THANK YOU to Patti for taking attendance at the meeting, and of course, bringing the chocolate... priorities right?? Anyway, I've been told that 10 door prizes went to those who were at the meeting, so keep the door prizes coming! Now is a great time to look through cabinets and drawers for little treasures you might want to donate or pick a seasonal prize up here or there as you are out shopping for the Auction!

Instead of sharing and brainstorming different ways to recruit members, I thought I would share an AH-HA moment I had at the CTAUN conference yesterday. Previous to the conference, I had toyed with the idea of inviting some teachers from my school. I thought a couple of them would enjoy the conference, but if I did invite them, I would have to "entertain" them instead of being free to go wherever and talk to whomever. As I was sitting through the morning session, I regretted not inviting them. Teaching with a global awareness is a passion of theirs, and they would have loved the conference if they would have attended.

Our chapter is always inviting of guests so I encourage you to bring guests, whether they are potential members or not, to chapter meetings that you think they would enjoy. If they aren't interested in becoming a member, maybe they know someone who would! See you at the Auction in November!

Leslie Valentincic  
 Corresponding Secretary



New Teacher Grant-in-aid winners: Shannah Castillo and Latrice Todd with Dianne McCorcle.





## Delta Kappa Gamma Theta Alpha Chapter Minutes October 19, 2013

The regular meeting of the Theta Alpha chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International was called to order at 10:35am by Beverly Haygood, President. The recording secretary, Kristi John, was present and recorded the minutes. Inspiration was given by Jan Gentry, Achievement Award Committee Chairman.

Beverly Haygood welcomed 21 members. Members reported on others who were unable to attend. The September minutes were approved as printed and will be filed. Members also welcomed guest, Nicole Rutledge and to new teacher Grant-in-Aid recipients: Shannah Castillo and Latrice Todd.

Leslie Valentincic, Corresponding Secretary, was absent. Patti Belknap, Parliamentarian, and Kristi John reported we had 21 members present and three guests. Dianne McCorcle reported on the New Teacher Grant-in-Aid recipients: Jordyn Yates, first year 1st grade teacher at Alexander Elementary, Duncanville ISD; Shannah Castillo, 1st year 4th grade teacher at Alexander Elementary, Duncanville ISD; Elizabeth Folliis, second year 6th grade teacher at Veda Knox Elementary, Arlington ISD ; Diedre Freisleben, first year 5th grade teacher at Veda Knox Elementary, Arlington ISD; Latrice Todd, first year 2nd grade teacher at Arcadia Park Elementary, Dallas ISD. Shannah and Latrice were both present to receive their awards.

Mary Myers reported that the chapters balance as of September 30, 2013 was \$4,136.22. Patti Belknap reported on the upcoming CTAUN conference. Members were told they could still register and the conference will be held at SMU from 8:00am to 4:00pm.

Beverly Hagood thanked members who participated in the "Annie Calling" and welcomed back Janice and Jeanette Taylor. They have been missed! Dianne McCorcle then reported on the upcoming November Auction at the Meridian and Holiday Tea at Lavendou Restaurant on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm. Also, she reported on the upcoming February project. The theme will be similar to last year, however, the chapter will also include a Native American Theme and the centers will be called "campfires."

Music was presented by Babs Arnswald. Baudelia Luna, Immediate Past President, reported on the International Project – Schools for Africa, which led the chapter into the project for the month. Patti Belknap and Kristi John presented "Purse Personalities" and the chapter's "Purse Auction." Members searched in their handbags for interesting items and in turn received a chocolate "kiss" for their endeavors. The purse

auction raised \$228.00 for Schools for Africa in honor of our Area Nine Coordinator, Michelle Grandinetti. The remaining donated purses were filled with hygiene items and donated to the Family Place in Dallas, one of Captain Hope's Kids' beneficiaries.

The project was followed by door prizes and reminders. The meeting adjourned by singing the DKG song at 12:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Kristi John, Recording Secretary

### Important Upcoming Dates:

**Holiday Tea** - Lavendou Resturaunt at 2:00pm  
19009 Preston Road #200  
Dallas, Texas



Kristi John and Patti Belknap with the purses collected.



Jan Gentry reading the inspiration.



Members of Theta Alpha enjoying the purse Scavenger hunt.



Patti Belknap giving Beverly Hagood her winning purse!

### Birthdays

#### November

- 2 - Mary Ann Shupe
- 15 - Claudia McBride
- 17 - Dianne McCorcle

#### December

- 10 - Marilyn Bishop
- 15 - Debra Rangel



# Reflections from the CTAUN Conference

Although the attendance of the CTAUN Conference November 2, 2013 may have been less than was to be expected, the organization of the conference and the information that was disseminated to the attendees far exceeding the expectations of those in attendance. There were two outstanding featured speakers and several well-qualified panelists to offer an abundance of information that amazed and astounded the Theta Alpha members who were able to attend the conference.

Ramu Damodaran, Deputy Director for Partnership and Public Engagement in the UN Department of Public Information's Outreach and chief of the UN Academic Impact Initiative, offered various thought-provoking statistics and comments. Ramu addressed Learning, Livelihood, and Sustainability as the three main foci of the UN - "Promoting Peace Through Education." According to Ramu, a steady increase in education between 1970-2009 has saved the lives of many children. The UN has also helped decrease the poverty level of peoples of the world: It has moved from globalization to people-people matter. In order for Learning, Livelihood, and Sustainability to be promoted, a behavioral change has to occur. That is where we as teachers can help: By making children in our classrooms (or with whom we come in contact) aware that education worldwide is important to sustain the peoples of the world. One important opinion that Ramu voiced was that governments need to realize that monies need to be diverted to help peoples of the world rather than diverting monies into weapons.

Theta Alpha members who attended the conference had the following comments to share about the conference:

"Loved the ideas about applying global awareness to basic topics in various content areas." Michelle Grandinetti

"Inspiring and thought-provoking. Was exciting to get new information and to see DKG friends." Kathy Nichols

"The CTAUN Conference far exceeded my expectations. The main idea that I took away from the conference was that we are not educating the children for the future, but that we are educating them for now. Students have fresh ideas and should not be blown off because of age or lack of experience." Leslie Valentincic

"Since I was involved in planning and implementing the conference, I had the great pleasure of picking up Ramu, the keynote speaker, from the airport. What an amazing man he is! A whole new world has been opened up for me: I'm amazed at the number of organizations that are working to make our world a better place. I can't wait to go to New York in January to attend the National CTAUN Conference at the United Nations." Patti Belknap, TSO CTAUN Representative

"I'm so glad that I attended the conference as it made me more aware of the need for education around the world. It reinforced the need to continue our support for Schools for Africa." Baudelia Luna

"The most interesting part of the conference for me, was the Sister Cities Program. The program gets young people around the world together so they can get to know each other personally, and their cultures. I think that would be a great experience to have." Sage John

"CTAUN was not what I expected! I learned what UNICEF does, even though I had heard of it before. It was very similar to my government class because we talk about many issues and current events, both U.S. and in world wide." Sierra John

Education is the key to promoting world peace and sustainability. As an ancient proverb expounds: If you give someone who is hungry a fish, he will eat for the day. If you teach someone who is hungry to fish, he will eat for a lifetime.

May we as DKG members continue our efforts in working toward world peace by continuing to promote education for all! Peace to all!

Bev Hagood

Right: Beverly Hagood, Baudelia Luna, Patti Belknap and Kristi John at the Dallas CTAUN conference.



Left: Michelle Grandinetti at the Dallas CTAUN conference.

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International has several generous scholarships available to its members. There are scholarships available for graduate studies, continuing adult education, and educational travel.

Scholarship	Award Amount	Funding for:	Due Date (postmarked)
Delta Kappa Gamma Educational Foundation's 50th Anniversary Awards  (for more information: <a href="http://www.dkgef.org/">http://www.dkgef.org/</a> )	\$1000	classroom, school or community projects involving learners in an educational environment.	November 15, 2013
TSO 3 Hour Graduate/Undergraduate Scholarship	\$500/year	graduate studies	March 1, 2014
TSO 6Hour Graduate/Undergraduate Scholarship	\$1000/year	graduate studies	March 1, 2014
TSO 9 Hour Graduate/Undergraduate Scholarship	\$1500/year	graduate studies	March 1, 2014
TSO Adult Education Scholarship	\$500 per member	3 hours of undergraduate/graduate studies or lifelong learning opportunity such as Road Scholar	March 1, 2014
Texas State Organization Doctoral Scholarship	\$5000	9 hours towards doctorate	March 1, 2014
TSO Maetha Griffin Weatherby Educational Travel Scholarship	\$1000 per member	support travel for educational pursuits	March 1, 2014
TSO Mini-Grants	\$500	non-traditional types of professional development activities	March 1, 2014
TSO 3 hour Aspiring Educator Grant	\$500 (four year limit to receive grant)	encouraging prospective women educators	March 1, 2014
TSO 6 hour Aspiring Educator Grant	\$1000 (four year limit to receive grant)	encouraging prospective women educators	March 1, 2014
Emergency Fund Assistance (for more information: <a href="https://www.dkg.org/content/emergency-fund-assistance-request">https://www.dkg.org/content/emergency-fund-assistance-request</a> )	\$500	members who sustain major losses from floods, tornadoes, or other natural catastrophic disasters.	
DKG International Scholarship	\$6000 \$10,000	Graduate / Doctoral studies	February 1, 2014