



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



Growing Together



Shelly's Seeds

Spring is here, and with it comes the hope for warmer weather and the beauty of nature awakening from its dormant state. Nature comes back to life with a burst of new growth and vibrant greens, reminding us of the beauty and resilience of the world around us. It is a time of hope and renewal.

Spring also can be a time for teachers to reflect on the past and embrace new perspectives. As this school year and biennium come to an end, we look forward to a summer of refreshment and a

new year filled with fresh opportunities and endless possibilities.

As Robin Williams once said, "Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's Party!'" Please join us for our April 20 chapter meeting, where we will install new officers, induct new members, and celebrate our founders. This is not just a meeting but a celebration of our past, a recognition of our present, and an inspiration for our future. Our journey has brought us to this moment to celebrate our personal and professional achievements and to envision new experiences and programs for our chapter. Let's seize this

opportunity to celebrate the growth and success of our members.

May this spring bring you renewed energy and creativity, and may you find joy and fulfillment in all your endeavors.



It's that time of the year again when we must start thinking about the upcoming year's dues. As a friendly reminder, the dues for next year are \$70, and they are due by June 20th.

To ensure Beta Beta's dues are submitted to the state on time, I need to receive all of them before July 1, 2024. You can mail your dues to me any time before the deadline, or you can pay them in person at the April meeting. If you choose to pay by check, you can

post-date it, and I will hold onto it until the end of May.

Your dues play an essential role in supporting our organization. By contributing, you help us cover our costs and fund our various activities and service projects throughout the year. Please submit your dues early. It would be much appreciated, as it helps me ensure that our state and international dues are submitted on time. I appreciate your thoughtful cooperation. Respectfully, **Vicki Bright**

Beta Beta Chapter It's News

International Scholarship Winner



Shelly Hudson

Our President Shelly has received the Founders Scholarship

from The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. Shelly is attending Southwestern Oklahoma State University, seeking a master's as a reading specialist.

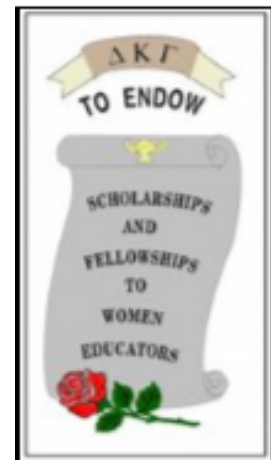
Shelly has worked on many committees, been chapter president and first and second vice-president, and served as newsletter editor and chapter webmaster.

Shelly has assisted her mother Paula Walker in OSO convention chair duties for numerous years and now serves as the OSO convention chair (2021-present). In addition, Shelly has been Oklahoma State Organization secretary and is now OSO's second vice president.

She graduated from the OSO Tebow-Herrington Leadership Seminar to hone her leadership capabilities. Shelly has attended

state conventions/conferences since 2012.

At the international level, Shelly has attended International conferences in Detroit and San Antonio and the New Orleans International Convention and has participated in officer training in Detroit.



It's Showtime! Time for the Rosy Awards!

**State Conference
Oklahoma City
June 7 – 8**

Get ready to be wowed as DKG sisters from across the state share their talents in comedy, dance, poetry and vocal and instrumental music at the Rosy Awards on opening night of the OSO convention! This year's convention theme is "OSO on Broadway: Everything's Coming up Roses." If you or a group of chapter sisters would like to be a part of the show, you can find information and an entry form on the state website:

<http://www.okdkg.org/conferencesconventions.html>.

Entries are due April 15, 2024

Back by popular demand—on Friday night, instead of having to eat a rushed meal before the convention starts, you can enjoy a **free box supper** courtesy of OSO (our state organization). The box supper includes your choice of sandwich, chips, cookie, and a drink.

Registration forms and hotel information are available on the state website. **Registration deadline is May 10, 2024.** Remember that you can register for just one day if you're unable to attend both Friday and Saturday. If you're interested in carpooling or sharing a room, please let your chapter sisters know.



Beta Beta Chapter Vision Statement
Embrace the Present, Impact the Future

Happy Birthday March and April



Kathleen Smith 15



Shelli Selby 20



Roxie Yetter 29



Kendra Jeffrey 28



May



Kandy Myers 4



Faye Hess 5



Shila Dobbins 7



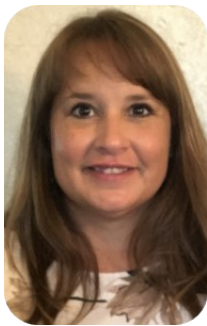
Megan Henderson 7



Jennifer Onderek 7



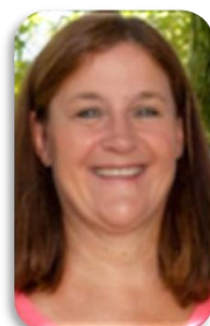
Gina Ray 7



Shannon Sisney 11



Elaine Regier 12



Amy Walters 24



DeeAnn Meziere 28



DKG International Mission Statement

The DKG Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education

Happy Birthday June



Suzy Biggs 7



Geri Hough 26



DKGIEF: Women Honoring Women

Honor a woman who has had a significant impact on your life or career

For each \$25 donation made in honor of that special woman, DKGIEF will send you a [specially designed card and pin](#) to present her.

Your donation must be postmarked or received between March 1, 2024, through April 15, 2024.

DKGIEF will offer a different pin each year in celebration of International Women's Day.

The initial 2024 pin features the blue hydrangea, which symbolizes gratitude and heartfelt emotion. Parts of the flower and stems will be raised to give a 3D effect.



For further details on how to make your donation, visit the DKGIEF website or scan this QR Code with your mobile device.



DKG International Vision Statement

Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide

February Meeting Review

By Geri Hough

34 Project



Guest speaker **Tim Haws, 34 Project Vice-president of Operations**, introduced the members to **34 Project**. The inspiration behind the founding of 34 Project was Mr. Haws' son, who was a victim of a tragic high school football game spinal injury.

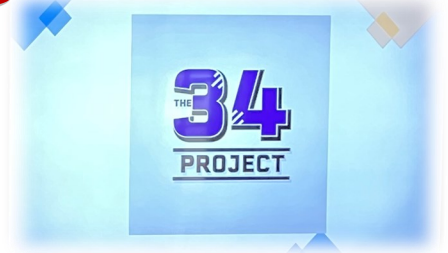
The 34 Project's mission state-

ment is "To bring comprehensive, non-traditional, exercise-based training to those with neurological challenges due to injury or disease."

The 34 Project seeks to maximize the potential for each individual living with spinal cord injuries and other neurological disorders by utilizing strategic exercises and providing the proper stimulation for an optimal functional outcome.

Their facility is located at 3818 N. Rockwell in Bethany, OK. The members were invited to visit and see the progress made by those living with disabilities. Our chapter donated \$50 to the 34 Project, and individual members donated an additional \$200 to \$300.

Tim Haws



March Meeting Review

By Beth Schieber

During the chapter's March meeting, the eighth-grade essay contest winners, Abigail Mathai, Ellyana Salda, Kenadie Lewis, and K'Leigh Jones, along with their families and teachers, were welcomed warmly by the chapter members to celebrate their achievements in writing. The winners read their winning essays and the complete story can be found on pages 11 and 12, and the essays can be read on pages 18-21.

In addition to the young writer's celebration, the members also visited Jacob's Cupboard, a food pantry that serves the citizens of Yukon and Mustang. The initiative is named after Jacob Selby, the late son of Yukon Mayor and City



Shelli Selby

Council member **Shelli Selby**. The mission of Jacob's Cupboard is to "nourish souls additional one bite at a time" by providing food to those who need it. According to Selby, the food pantry is a "no-questions-asked" facility, meaning that they do not ask people to fill out forms or even know their names. They rely solely on contributions from the public and do not accept government funding because they do not want to follow government guidelines.

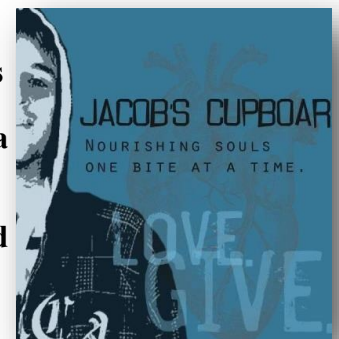
"We want to help the working

poor," Selby said. "That is a lot of who we serve, along with people who may have had a medical emergency and just need food."

Jacob's Cupboard is located inside West Metro Community Church at 601 West Main and does not have regular hours. Anyone seeking help may contact Shelli through the Jacob's Cupboard Facebook page.

Beta

Beta members donated \$185, a \$50 Braum's card and food items.



Beta Beta Chapter Chapter News

April Meeting Preview

APRIL 20, 2024 - SATURDAY

Site: South Yukon Church of Christ
11700 NW 10th Street
Yukon, Oklahoma

Time: 9:30 A.M.

Cost: \$12.00

Moment of Inspiration
Collect/Flag/Mission Statement

Paula Walker
Beth Schieber

Installation of New Officers
Induction of New Members
Celebration of DKG Founders

Service Project: YPS Back to School Breakfast
Cash donations

HOSTESSES: Shelly Hudson*, Debbie Bounds, Vicki Bright,
Beth Schieber, Meredith Smith, Christine
Sorrels-Alexander, Mary Styron, Paula
Walker

Beta Beta Chapter Treasurer's Report February 2024 Submitted March 8, 2024

Checking Account:

Balance	\$1,672.73
Total of deposits	\$ 171.00
Interest earned	\$.00
Total checks written	\$ 375.00
Current balance	\$1,468.73

Savings Account:

Balance	\$8,107.46
Total deposits	\$.00
Interest earned	\$ 12.56
Total withdrawals	\$.00
Current balance	\$8,120.02

May Service Project

Our April service project supports Beta Beta's commitment to sponsoring a table at Yukon Public School's "The Breakfast." At the beginning of each school year, the district honors all YPS personnel—from bus drivers and cafeteria workers to classroom teachers, paraprofessionals and site administrators. Yukon businesses and organizations sponsor "The Breakfast" by decorating tables and providing small gifts for YPS employees to kick off the new school year. Your monetary gifts will help the committee purchase gift cards and prizes for the YPS personnel at the Beta Beta table.

*To donate by mail, write a check to Beta Beta and list The Breakfast in the subject line. You can mail monetary donations to Beta Beta treasurer:

Vicki Bright
108 Chestnut Dr.
Yukon, Ok. 73099

Thank you for giving what you can!
Tonya and Jennie



Tonya Taylor



Jennie Wilmes

DKG Oklahoma State Organization Vision Statement

Serving Education...Honoring Tradition

OKLAHOMA CONFERENCE

June 7-8, 2024

- Oklahoma State Organization Conference
Oklahoma City

OKLAHOMA DEADLINES

April 1, 2024

- Chapter Service Award

FUTURE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS/CONFERENCES

2024: National Harbor, Maryland
(Gaylord National, D.C. Area)

2026: Aurora, Colorado
(Gaylord Rockies)

INTERNATIONAL DEADLINES

May 1, 2024

- DKGIEF Cornet CIPD Application



Celebration of Membership

	Year Inducted	Years of Membership	Name of Member
<p><i>Celebrate</i> being a DKG WOMAN</p>	2023	0	Karen Hanscom Megan Henderson Shannon Sisney
	2022	1	Krystin Brewer Hayley Furr Jennifer Onderek
	2020	3	Lana McCormack DeeAnn Meziere
	2019	4	Vicki Bonny Kendra Jeffrey

Beta Beta Chapter Information

ENGAGING AND RETAINING MEMBERS THE IMPORTANCE OF BONDING

DKGSI: January 4, 2024

Think back to science classes and discussions on chemical bonding. We learned that a chemical bond is a lasting attraction between atoms or ions that holds them together. A lasting attraction and bonding together is something we want for all of our members. We need to do all we can to get members to have a strong relationship with one another and with the Society as a whole. Why? Because member bonding:

- Fosters a sense of belonging. For new members, it helps them feel more connected and included. We tend to retain those that feel connected.
- Nurtures strong relationships that make people feel respected, valued, heard and seen
- Builds trust and a sense of community. Understanding more about each other's backgrounds and experiences helps create an environ-

ment of inclusivity.

- Strengthens the engagement of members in chapter activities
- Creates a more comfortable atmosphere
- Leads to collaboration and cohesion

We can help members create strong bonds through activities that have them getting to know each other on a more personal level, activities such as:

- Fun get-to-know you exercises (such as ice breakers)
- Programs such as "Our Talented Friends" where skills and talents of members are shared or a "Nibble and Network" event where over appetizers, members teach each other about something or share information on topics of interest
- Shake-it-up seating at meetings (where members sit together based on month of birthday or favorite food or favorite movie/book genre or favorite area of the world

to travel, etc.)

- Rose Buddies or mentors
- Acts of appreciation (recognizing birthdays, DKG anniversaries, accomplishments, etc.)
- Carpool conversations
- Community volunteering projects
- Coffee chats
- Book clubs
- Board game gatherings
- Potlucks where members share the recipe of the item they brought
- Picnics

Bonding activities are numerous. Consider the list here a starter.

The importance of creating lasting relationships and connections between our members cannot be overstated. The more comfortable members feel, the more likely they are to be engaged in chapter activities. And, when members are comfortable and engaged, we are more likely to retain them.

Prayers for Our Beta Beta Sisters

Lord, we pray you bless our Beta Beta sisters with strength, courage and hope as they face the challenges of life. Please watch over them and protect them from all harm. May they know your love and guidance every day, and may they find peace, joy and happiness in your presence. Amen.

Cheryl Gleichmann for upcoming knee replacement surgery in April
Praise that Albert, Cheryl Gleichmann's husband, is home and cancer free following surgery and that no further treatment is needed
Eleanor Harris who will have knee replacement surgery May 10



Beta Beta Chapter Member Spotlight: Lisa Cook



Lisa Cook

I am pleased to present Lisa Cook as our spotlight member this month. Lisa is a 24 year member of DKG and our 2024-2026 chapter recording secretary.

Lisa's former teaching partner, **Glennis Cove**, invited her to join DKG. Lisa says, "It was an honor to be asked. My mother was a Jones County, Texas, chapter charter member. I remember how much she loved the organization and spending time with fellow members. As a member of DKG, I love the wide variety of monthly service projects. One of my favorite programs each year is the presentation of student essays."

Lisa is married to **Guy Cook**. They met and started dating in their second year of college and will celebrate their 50th anniversary in May. After a 25-year career with UPS, Guy retired in 2000 and has served as the strength and conditioning coach for OCU softball since 2002.

Lisa and Guy have two children: **Alan** and **Allison**. Alan is a Project Connect principal at Canadian Valley Technological Center. Alan's wife is Yukon na-

tive **Katie Thompson Cook**, a talented hairstylist. Alan and Katie have blessed Lisa and Guy with three precious grandchildren. **Sloan**, who will be fourteen next month, is a member of the National Honor Society, competitive dance, pom squad and show choir. **Call**, ten years old, and **Cord**, six years old, play soccer, basketball and baseball. All their grandchildren go to Bethany Public Schools.

Their daughter **Allison** is a senior accountant for the Midland Corporation and is married to **Jim Doll**, a Kansas native and project manager for Pinnacle in Edmond.

Guy and Lisa are both 1975 graduates of McMurry University in Abilene, Texas. While living in Abilene, Lisa taught 4th grade for 14 years. After UPS took them to Albuquerque, Lisa taught fourth grade there for four years. Their last stop with UPS was in Yukon, where she taught 6th grade for 16 years at Lakeview and Yukon Middle Schools. She retired in 2012 after a 34-year teaching career.

Lisa says she loves to read, walk, travel, and attend OCU softball games and their grandchildren's activities.

Lisa rarely finds a book she doesn't like! Three of her recent favorites are *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver, *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus and *The Diamond Eye* by Kate Quinn.

Lisa Cook is a dedicated member of DKG and a beloved member of her community. Her love for teaching, reading, and spending time with family shines through in all that she does. As we celebrate Lisa, we are reminded of the importance of service, family and the lifelong pursuit of knowledge.

(Continued on Page 10)



Above: Guy and Lisa in Verona



Lisa and Guy at Garvan Gardens in Hot Springs

Beta Beta Chapter Member Spotlight: Lisa Cook

Lisa Cook
(Continued From Page 9)



Below: (Front to Back) Beloved grandchildren Cord, Call and Sloan pose.



Above Left: Lisa's family takes a moment for a family photo-op. Son-in-law Jim, his wife and Lisa and Guy's daughter Allison, Lisa, Alan and Katie's daughter Sloan, Lisa's husband Guy, Alan and Katie's son Call, Lisa and Guy's son Alan, Alan's wife Katie holding Cord, and Lisa's father-in-law Hardy

DKGIEF Dueling Pianos Event at the DKG International Convention National Harbor, Maryland

Looking for a fun night out? Well, toss in your dancing shoes and tune up your vocal cords for an evening spent at Bobby McKey's Dueling Piano Bar on Wednesday, July 10, from 6 to 11 pm, sponsored by DKGIEF.

World-class musicians will play all your requests and favorites while weaving in improvisational humor. Heavy appetizers, desserts, and soda/water will be included with your ticket purchase, and the venue is just steps away from the convention center.

A portion of the \$150 ticket price will be tax deductible as a contribution to DKGIEF. Tickets are limited to 300, so join your DKG sisters as you'll sing and laugh the night away while making incredible memories and supporting a great cause.



Beta Beta Chapter Essay Contest Results

Essay Contest Winners

Beta Beta Chapter is proud to announce the winners of their chapter's 2024 essay contest. The essay winners, their families and their teachers were honored at a chapter celebration where the young gifted writers read their essays to an enthusiastic and appreciative gathering. This year's topic was "What do you want to be when you're an adult? Explain why you'd choose that career OR what you'll do to prepare for it." All entries were from 8th grade students at Yukon Middle School.

Abigail Mathai's essay "A Perfect Adult" earned first place. In it, she discusses becoming a pediatrician. She says, "I want to be an extraordinary pediatrician renowned for fighting for my patients and being good at what I do. As a pediatrician, I want to treat as many kids as I can without limitations such as money or where their parents are

from . . . Every child deserves someone who can make them the healthiest and best versions of themselves." Abigail Mathai's first-place essay has been sent to the DKG Oklahoma State Organization's competition.

Second place went to **Ellyana Salda** for her essay "A World of Words." Ellyana wants to become a writer. She says, "Once writers begin to write, they can't stop. They keep going. They never stop making stories even if they say they do. This is why I love writing so much. It's a way to explore worlds, to escape our crazy world, and to tell people how I feel without saying that's how I feel. It's a way to make memories, and lastly, it creates a place where I truly can be myself without being judged."

Kenadie Lewis was awarded third place for her essay "Recipe of Love," which is an essay about

her dream of becoming a baker. Kenadie contributes her love of baking to her grandmother Venita Davis. "Despite all the benefits of baking, I really have only one main reason why I want to go into this profession: to keep my grandmother's recipes alive. My first memory of baking with my grandma was when I helped her make pound cake and pineapple upside-down cake."

K'Leigh Jones received an honorable mention award for her essay "Adulthood." K'Leigh dreams of becoming a teacher. She says, "I want to educate children on the lessons they are required to learn, including the important parts of those topics and why we learn about them. . . I want my students to understand how what we learn is important to their lives."

(Continued on Page 12)



Above: YMS teacher Mrs. Rachel Anderson, first-place winner Abigail Mathai, second-place winner Ellyana Salda, third-place winner Kenadie Lewis, honorable mention K'Leigh Jones, YMS teacher Catin Gardner, and chapter member and master of ceremonies Kathleen Smith.

Beta Beta Chapter

Chapter Theme: Growing Together

(Continued From Page 11)

Kenadie Lewis is a student of **Ms. Catlin Gardner**, and **K'Leigh Jones**, **Abigail Mathai**, and **Ellyana Salda** are students in **Mrs. Rachel Anderson's** class. Each student received a monetary award and will be presented with award certificates at

their school's award assembly at the end of school. The three participating teachers – **Mrs. Rachel Anderson**, **Ms. Catlin Gardner** and **Mr. Mark French** – each received an honorarium. The chapter Essay committee comprises **Cheryl Gleichmann (Chair)**, **Trudy Capraro**, **Sharon Myrick**, **Beth**

Schieber, **Kathleen Smith**, and hostess **Diane Gray**.

The purpose of the essay contest is to **PROMOTE EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION**. The goals of this essay contest are to promote writing, encourage reading, emphasize good teaching and recognize students.



Left: Kenadie Lewis and her Grandmother Venita Davis. Kenadie's essay was a dedication to her grandmother and her grandmother's recipes.



Right: Mr. Jeremy Salda is so proud of his daughter **Ellyana** and her second place essay.



Below Left: First place essay winner Amelia Mathai and her mother Sheeba Mathai.

Below: Kassie Jones, K'Leigh's mother; K'Leigh Jones, honorable mention essay winner; and Kathy Jones, K'Leigh's grandmother, celebrate with their smiles.



Beta Beta Chapter Legislative Update

Legislative Update

Lawmakers Want to Change Oklahoma's Teacher Bonus Program. That Includes No Clawbacks

(*The Oklahoman* 3/13/2024) If the state Legislature has its way, changes are coming to a teacher signing bonus program that state schools Superintendent Ryan Walters has championed, but which saw numerous implementation problems with its administration by the Oklahoma State Department of Education. House Bill 4017, approved by the House and under consideration by the Senate would reduce the amount of the bonuses offered to teachers and pay the money in yearly installments over five years — instead of in a lump sum in the first year — and would delegate responsibility for fact-checking the applications of teachers each year to the State Education Department.

State Dollars Prop Walters' National Media Blitz Oklahoma News Watch

by Jennifer Palmer
March 13, 2024

Public money for Oklahoma students is paying for email pitches like this one:

“Good morning! Ryan Walters, state superintendent of Oklahoma, banned porn/explicit reading materials and graphics from classrooms in Oklahoma, but Edmond Public Schools is appealing this action, asking the state Supreme Court to allow porn back in classrooms.”

That pitch goes on to say: “School board members won’t even allow adults to read these books out loud, yet Edmond Public Schools are begging for kids to be reading this sexual garbage.”

And this one, seizing on the death of an Owasso High School student: “An open letter called for Ryan’ (sic) immediate removal from office for, the letter claims, “fostering a culture of violence and hate against the 2SLGBTQI+ community in Oklahoma schools. “Ryan responded to the letter saying: “[this is a] standard tactic of the radical left, and they will stop at nothing to destroy the country and our state.”

“Want Ryan on to discuss?” the pitches conclude.

Vought Strategies, a communications firm in Arlington, Virginia, sent those emails in recent weeks to national media outlets. The Oklahoma Department of Education hired the firm to write speeches and op-eds and book Walters on at least 10 national TV and radio appearances per month.

That has some people questioning whether Walters is boosting his national profile at the public’s expense—something Mary Vought, president and founder of the firm, made clear she is working to do.

“I will work with my network of stakeholders to obtain attendance at national events and conferences in order to increase the national exposure of the client,” she wrote in her bid for the contract, public records show.

Oklahoma Could Require Extra Math Course to Graduate High School

Oklahoma Voice

By Muria Martinez-Keel
March 13, 2024

The state House overwhelmingly approved a measure on Wednesday

in a 95-2 vote to add a fourth math credit to graduation requirements. House Bill 3278 would allow students to begin taking high school credits in eighth grade.

The bill would take effect in the 2025-26 school year. It now advances to the Senate for consideration.

Two of the credits would have to be Algebra I and either Algebra II or geometry. The other two credits must be any math course with “content and/or rigor above Algebra I.”

This could include traditional upper-level courses like Algebra II, geometry, trigonometry, calculus and statistics. Schools also could apply a math credit to a postsecondary career and technology program or to a course that teaches math through real-world application.

In Oklahoma City Public Schools, this could mean an HVAC or construction trade class could count as a math credit, if the local school board approves it, said Superintendent Sean McDaniel during a Monday board meeting.

“It would make sense because of the amount of math that kids will use in those pathways that we might be able to award credit,” McDaniel said.

Existing requirements to complete four credits of English language arts, three credits of laboratory science and three credits of history would be unchanged.

Six high school credits would have to relate to a student’s aspirations after high school, under the bill.

(Continued on Page 14)

Beta Beta Chapter Legislative Update

Legislative Update

(Continued From Page 13)

Oklahoma students already have to create an Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP) to prepare for entering college, the military or the workforce. The bill would mandate that six courses, or “pathway units,” correspond to students’ ICAP goals.

Mandatory courses in English, math, science and history would count toward these credits. Students also could fulfill the requirement by taking a world language, computer technology, fine arts, Advanced Placement credits, college concurrent enrollment or Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (JROTC), among other options.

The bill’s author, Rep. Rhonda Baker, R-Yukon, said the measure encourages students to take classes that are most relevant to their career goals.

“We are revamping this so that their pathway will fit whatever they deem necessary and important to them,” she said during discussion on the House floor.

Why AG Drummond and Schools Supt. Walters Received Opposite Awards for Open Public Records

***The Oklahoman* March 11, 2024**

Oklahoma Attorney General Gentner Drummond has received the annual Sunshine Award from **Freedom of Information Oklahoma (FOI)** for his efforts to promote open government in the state. **Another elected official, state schools Superintendent Ryan Walters, is this year’s recipient of the group’s Black Hole Award, given to the individual, agency or organization that has most thwarted the free flow of information.**

Former Epic CFO Waives Preliminary Hearing; Attorney Says Plea Deal in Works

***Tulsa World* March 11, 2024**

A plea deal with prosecutors is in the works for Epic Charter Schools’ former chief financial officer in a case described as the “largest abuse of taxpayer funds in

the history of this state.” Appearing before an Oklahoma County District Court judge Monday morning, with an assistant Oklahoma attorney general present, Josh Brock, 42, waived his right to a preliminary hearing and further time to plea. His formal arraignment, where he will hear the charges against him and possibly enter a plea, is now set for April 3.



Save The Date

Saturday, April 6, 2024

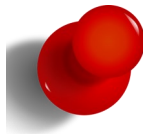
Orientation Tea

Kay Casper’s home, 1612 Castle Rock Court
Yukon
10:00 A.M.

Saturday, April 20, 2024

**Founders Day/Member Induction
Installation of Officers**

South Yukon Church of Christ
9:30 A.M.



Monday, April 15, 2024

**OSO Conference Talent Show
registrations due**

Friday and Saturday, June 7-8, 2024

**Oklahoma State Conference
Embassy Suites - 1815 South Meridian
OKC**

July 9-14, 2024

**International Convention
National Harbor, MD**

Beta Beta Chapter March Meeting



Above: These amazing young writers pose with very proud **Beta Beta member and Yukon Mayor Shelli Selby**, second from the right. **Third-place winner Kenadie Lewis**; supportive friends that came to celebrate the winners **Chloe Six and Kali Liptow**; **first-place winner Abigail Mathai**; honorable mention **K’Leigh Jones**; **Shelli Selby**; and **second-place winner Ellyana Salda**.



Above Left: **Megan Henderson** gives a captivating and encouraging inspirational message.

Above Right: **Chapter treasurer Vicki Bright** not only keeps the accounts of our chapter funds in perfect order, but she also maintains the attendance record and collects and records all donations for the many projects of our chapter.

Beta Beta Chapter March Meeting

Left: President Shelly Hudson brings the assembly to order.

Right: Jackie Sheehan smiles as she selects her meal from the tasty assortment provided by the March hostesses. In addition to Jackie, the other hostesses were **Shelli Selby***, **Suzy Biggs**, **Cheryl Gleichmann**, **Megan Henderson**, **Ann Hufnagel**, **Blake Lower**, **DeeAnn Meziere** and **Kandy Myers**.



Below, Left to Right around the table: Lana McCormack, Sharon Myrick, Debbie Schimmer, Diane Gray, and Paula Walker listen as the young writers present their winning essays.

In the background: Mr. Jeremy Salda, the proud father of Ellyana Salda and her second place essay “A World of Words”; Mary Styron; Ann Hufnagel; and Susan Dobry.



Beta Beta Chapter March Meeting



Left: Lisa Cook, our soon-to-be recording secretary, seems enthralled by the essays of our young writers.



Right: Kathleen Smith, our beloved master of ceremonies, introduces our guest speakers, the 2024 essay winners. Kathleen is substituting for **Essay Committee chair Cheryl Gleichmann**, who is recovering from surgery.



Below: By their beautiful smiles, it is easy to see that members **Julia Wilhite, Tonya Taylor, Jennie Wilmes, Susan Doby and Geri Hough** enjoy both the friendship between members and the success of our many chapter projects.



Beta Beta Chapter Student Essays

“A Perfect Adult” by Abigail Mathai First Place



Amelia Mathai and her mother Sheeba Mathai

"They may forget your name but they will never forget how you made them feel," Maya Angelou once wrote. This quote represents the kind of person I want to be in life. I yearn to help people and make them feel better about who they are and how they feel. I don't necessarily want a big title or many awards. I want smaller things that mean more to me. As a pediatrician, I want to earn my parent's pride, be extraordinary, and be thought of as reliable and dedicated by my patients and their families.

When I am an adult, I want to achieve many things and make my parents proud. My parents give me so much and expect nothing in return except for me to study hard and be kind to everyone. I want to repay them in every way I can. I will have many achievements that they can happily and proudly show

off. I want to be like Maya Angelou. Maya Angelou is a person I look up to because of how strong-headed she is. I want to be as determined, persistent, passionate, and courageous as she is. I want to develop these traits in myself so I can live life with my head held high, with my values and ethics in place. Most importantly though, I hope to make my family proud of the woman I grow up to be.

I want to be an extraordinary pediatrician renowned for fighting for my patients and being good at what I do. I think when individuals do something, they should do their best. As a pediatrician, I want to be able to treat as many kids as I can without limitations such as money or where their parents are from. I think kids hold a different perspective of the world that adults cannot see or interpret. Every kid is special and unique in my opinion, and I want all of them to be able to better the world in a way another being cannot. Every child deserves someone who can make them the healthiest and best version of themselves.

I want to be reliable and trustworthy. I want patients, friends, and people surrounding me to trust me. I want to be the best person I can be while developing favorable mentalities, constructive habits, and superb qualities. I have always had the mindset that adults have everything figured out and that they know what they are doing continuously. They know more than me, but they do not know everything. Sometimes they get stuck or feel helpless. I do not see myself as a flawless adult, but I am going to try my hardest to fix

my flaws and be the best version of myself. I will try to make sure everything I do as an adult is ethical, beneficial, and effective. To be a good friend, a good daughter, a good older sister, a good pediatrician, and a good person are my only goals.

Being a pediatrician to me means making my parents proud, being good at what I do, and having people place significant trust in me. Not only as a pediatrician but as a human being as well, I hope to be looked up to. I want to be like all the people in my life I have called older sisters or, more importantly, like my mom. I believe we meet people for a reason, and all of the people I have met have made me who I am today. I'm sure I will meet more people and be even stronger and kinder when I am an adult. No one is perfect, and no one ever will be. That's the irony of adulthood. There is no such thing as a perfect adult. However, there is such a thing as an extraordinary adult, and that is what I want to be.



Beta Beta Chapter Student Essays

“A World of Words” by Ellyana Salda Second Place



**Jeremy Salda and daughter
Ellyana Salda**

"I think books are like people, in the sense that they'll turn up in your life when you most need them." - Emma Thompson. Books have the power to change lives - how a person lives or views the world. When I am of age, I would like to be a writer. I want to provide these memories for people; I want to provide people with a world they can escape to when our crazy lives get even more out of hand. Lastly, I want to keep exploring worlds and characters I didn't even know existed until my mind created them.

Making memories... "Some books are so familiar that reading them is like being home again" - Louisa May Alcott. When reading books, most people remember the book months or sometimes even years later. This proves how much power a book can hold. When you are reading a book, you are going through a time in your life. This

time may be very hard and stressful, or maybe it is dull. When you reread books that you read around this time, the memories all flood back. You may remember how stressed you were at the time. Or maybe you remember how boring your life was and how books were the only thing that kept you awake. Either way, the memories come back. Not only do the memories of your life come back, but also the memories of reading the book. You may recall how excited you were when you got to that chapter, or how disappointed you were to find that a character died. Maybe you can imagine that character skiing beautifully off a slope on a cold November day with everyone watching behind her. I want to create these kinds of memories and vivid images for people, bringing them the joy of reading.

Escaping... "There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you." - Maya Angelou. We all can agree that our lives can get easily out of hand. Stress just piles up until we can't take it anymore. However books - books never provide stress. They are a way of escaping our hectic lives into a world where we can just be ourselves. They bring us bliss after a hard day at work. I want to make this bliss for people. I want people to think, "Man, I wish I could write stories the way she does." Not only is reading an escape for most people, but it is a way of escaping for writers as well. It is a way we can make the character feel just as we are feeling at that moment. "Reading fictional books is shown to increase better decision-making in people by 50%-

100%" (Cross River Therapy). This is why we writers do what we do and why in the middle of the night we get up to read a story that is captivating, classic, and colorful.

Fictional worlds... "You never have to change anything you got up in the middle of the night to write about." - Saul Bellow. Sometimes writers get an idea they do not want to forget. This is often because our minds are racing too fast to process when creating fictional stories. When this happens to me, it makes me so excited. Exploring fictional worlds brings extreme amounts of joy that I can't even describe. Making up fictional worlds is like exploring a place I didn't even know existed. I keep exploring until I physically can't. I keep thinking, wondering, contemplating, reasoning.

"There is no real ending. It's just the place where you stop the story." - Frank Herbert. Once writers begin to write, they can't stop. They keep going. They never stop making stories even if they say they do. This is why I love writing so much. It's a way to explore worlds, to escape our crazy world, and to tell people how I feel without saying that's how I feel. It is a way to make memories, and lastly, it creates a place where I truly can be myself without being judged.



Beta Beta Chapter Student Essays

“Recipe of Love” By Kenadie Lewis Third Place Essay



Above: Kenadie and her
Grandmother Venita Davis

Recipe of Love According to Anna Olson, "You don't have to love cooking to cook, but you have to do more than love baking to bake. You have to bake out of love." Baked goods are almost always at the core of meals at events, so seeing everyone enjoying their food must make the baker very happy. Seeing people I care about happy is the most important thing to me, and baking is one of the ways I can achieve that. Being a baker is important to me because I can demonstrate the love I feel for people through my food, allow myself to have opportunities that are not usually available in other fields, and uphold the outstanding

quality of my grandmother's recipes.

I want to be a baker because bringing food to life, finding or making recipes, and just spending time with people I love makes me happy. Studies show that the sugar in desserts causes the brain to release endorphins like serotonin. This gives a joyful feeling after eating something sweet. I want to serve dessert that gives people a feeling that encompasses the effort I put into it, because baking is not a piece of cake.

All of the work bakers put into their jobs is not in vain. There are also good benefits to go with those long nights spent in the kitchen. Baking is an amazing outlet for creativity. I consider myself a very creative person, so this is one of the best jobs for me. Another advantage of being a baker is the immense mobility achieved while working. A typical day in the baking industry means running around getting ingredients and utensils, taking orders from customers, and also greeting said customers.

Despite all of the benefits of baking, I really only have one main reason why I want to go into this profession: to keep my grandmother's recipes alive. My first memory of baking with my grandma was when I helped her make pound cake and pineapple upside-down cake. Ever since I was a lit-

tle kid, I would always be fascinated by the efficiency she had in the kitchen. Back in elementary school, during summer breaks, I would go to the daycare where she worked while my mother was working. Whenever I was there, I got the privilege of seeing her in action, and I remember being in complete awe. Watching her work almost robotically made me inspired. I wanted to be able to make a dish without having to constantly look at a recipe. My grandmother wasn't necessarily a "baker," but she was a cook. It is just that my favorite recipes of hers were desserts such as: lemon pound cake, butter sugar cookies, and mini lemon pies. She has helped me a lot throughout my life. From watching me when both my parents were at work, to giving my family somewhere to stay when we were moving. She prompted me to go down this road, so I thank her for it.

To sum up, being a baker is not about what gets baked; it is how and why. Baking allows me to express my emotions artistically and give new life to my grandma's dishes. I love my grandma, so letting her live on through my baking is the most important thing to me. I want to become a baker to share my gift with the world, and using my grandmother's recipes would make it even better.

"The memories of what we ate as a child form a sort of patriotism that lasts throughout our life. Now, call your grandmother and ask for those recipes you have been meaning to get, and we can get started on tasting our spirit of patriotism."—Jeff Smith

Beta Beta Chapter Student Essays

“Adulthood” by K’Leigh Jones Honorable Mention



K’Leigh Jones

In the words of Jeffrey Holland, "If some students are unresponsive, maybe you can't teach them yet, but you can love them. And if you love them today, maybe you can teach them tomorrow." This quote means so much to me regarding the value of loving children, the significance of patience with children, and the art of teaching. As an adult, I want to spend my life educating children about important ideas and skills, recognizing the children who are misunderstood and viewed differently, making sure the students I have

over the years feel safe and are enjoying learning, and ensuring no child in my protection ever feels as I did when I was a child.

I want to educate children on the lessons they are required to learn, including the important parts of those topics and why we learn about them. I remember being in class and wondering what value there was in anything I was learning. I remember being confused about when I would use any of it. I hated that feeling. I want my students to understand how what we learn is important to their lives. I also want to teach them the life lessons of society in general. Growing up, I wish I had a teacher who taught me more about real life and not just about what was in books.

As a teacher, I want to recognize the misunderstood kids and see them when they feel invisible. So many kids in the school system feel overlooked or are going through challenging events in their lives. When they go through times like these, it can sometimes turn students into misbehaving kids whom teachers and other students see as ‘bad’ kids. These kids are not bad; they are just misunderstood. So as a teacher, I want to

understand and respect these misunderstood kids.

Lastly, as a teacher, I want to ensure that no child under my watch will feel as I did as a student. As a child, I always felt out of place and like I truly did not belong anywhere I went. I felt as though every teacher disliked me and every student around me didn't like me. I hated feeling that way when I was little. I remember going home and sobbing, feeling as though the people around me thought I was different.

As a teacher, I want to accept the fact that if a student seems like they dislike me, maybe they're just misunderstood. When they realize I am on their side and there to love them, they'll let me teach them. When they are ready to accept the love I have to give, they will flourish, show their beauty, and become astute students.



Malala Yousafzai

TEACHINGEXPERTISE.COM

International Convention

National Harbor, MD

July 9-13, 2024

Beta Beta Chapter International Convention News

2024 International Convention

The 2024 International Convention will be held at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland, U.S.A. The Gaylord National Resort overlooks the Potomac River with waterfront terraces at its back door and the bustling town of National Harbor at its front. From malls to boutiques, live entertainment to casinos, wine bars to restaurants, and ferry terminals to Ferris Wheels, National Harbor has whatever might be your interest. And, if you desire, take the short trip over the river to Washington D.C., and Alexandria, Virginia.

Of course, the convention will also offer all the excitement you have come to expect and more: enjoying keynote speakers, engaging in breakout sessions, networking with members, connecting with old friends and using your member voice when you vote on proposed amendments to the Society's governing documents.

Save the date! July 9 – 13, 2024.

Prices increase after June 9, 2024

Registration fees include all convention events (general meetings, breakout sessions, meal events, and other events such as Marketplace access) on the days purchased.

Days can be purchased individually or as a full package with a discount reflected in the package price.

Member Registration:

- 1 Day Registration: \$175 per day
- 2 Day Registration: \$350
- 3 Day Registration: \$525
- Member Full Registration (Tues-Sat): \$575

Collegiate Registration:

- 1 Day Registration: \$125 per day
- 2 Day Registration: \$250
- 3 Day Registration: \$375
- Collegiate Full Registration (Tues-Sat): \$400

Non-Member Registration:

- 1 Day Registration: \$200 per day
- 2 Day Registration: \$400
- 3 Day Registration \$600
- Non-Member Full Registration (Tues-Sat): \$650

**WATCH THE 2024
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION PROMO HERE**

<https://youtu.be/hIM5vfFYVK4>

For more convention information, go to [2024 International Convention \(dkg.org\)](https://dkg.org)

Beta Beta Chapter Oklahoma Conference Registration



2024 Oklahoma State Conference Registration
“OSO on Broadway: Everything is Coming up Roses”
 Embassy Suites, Oklahoma City
 1815 South Meridian Avenue
 June 7-8, 2024

Last Name:	First Name:	Title:
Address:	City:	Zip:
Home Phone:	Cell Phone:	Chapter:
Email (Most accessed):		
2022-2024 Chapter Officer position:	2023-2025 State Officer or State Committee Chair position:	

Photo Release: “I grant permission to OSO of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International to use my photograph in <i>The LimeLighter</i> and/or the Gamma State Website.”	___ YES ___ NO
--	-------------------

Check ALL appropriate choices: ___ Chapter President or Designee ___ Oklahoma State Past President	___ First Timer to the Oklahoma State Convention ___ Initiated in 2023-24 – <i>Welcome new member!</i> ___ Initiated in 1973-1974 – <i>50 years in DKG!</i> ___ National Board Certified in 2023 – 2024 ___ Received Doctorate in 2023 – 2024 ___ Attending International Convention in 2024
---	---

Event	Date	Ticket Quantity	Cost	Total
Registration fee	June 7-8		\$10	\$10
Showtime Sandwiches/Concessions	Friday, June 7		\$0	
Theatre of the Stars Luncheon Buffet- Pork Loin, BBQ Brisket, Grilled Veggies, Mashed Potatoes, Tossed Green Salad, Strawberry Cream Cake, Chocolate Cake	Saturday, June 8		\$35	
Presidents Rose Banquet* - Asiago Crusted Chicken, Pasta, Tomato Coulis, Tomato Basil Soup, Cheesecake, Apple pie	Saturday, June 8		\$40 *Past Oklahoma State Presidents attend the Banquet compliments of Oklahoma State	
Add \$2 for Venmo Payments			Total	\$

Payment for Meals/Events must be received by May 10, 2024
 Contact Convention Chair Shelly Hudson (shelly.hudson@cox.net or text--405.698.7497) with questions.
***** Meals must be prepaid. NO meal tickets will be sold at convention. *****
 The cost of the meal includes food, service charges, and taxes.

Mail Registration form and check to: Diane Laase 10801 West Country Drive Oklahoma City, OK 73170	Make Checks payable to Oklahoma State Organization Venmo: @OSO-DKG \$2 charge for Venmo payments
---	---

Friday Night’s Opening Session Friday, June 7, 2024 - 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Rosey Award Talent Show with International Guest 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Optional Showtime Sandwiches/Concessions provided at 5:30 p.m. Dessert and Beverages will be provided at 8:00 p.m.	ATTENDING ___ YES ___ NO
---	---------------------------------------