



July/ August Newsletter 2020

First Edition 2020-2021



BETA SIGMA CONTINUES TO BLOOM!

A new chapter biennium began July 1st and a new set of officers quietly took the helm. Masks, social distancing, empty grocery shelves, Covid-19, and questions or concerns about health, the economy, jobs, and the world all continued. The chapter members adapted and stayed the course to keep βΣ moving forward.

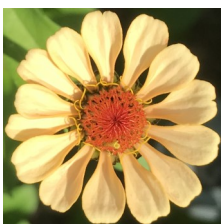
Our Standing Rules committees were revised to align with what our chapter membership is able to support. Thank you to all who helped. We met twice with a potential collegiate candidate and bid farewell to another. βΣ welcomed a member from a chapter in Tennessee and we ZOOMED with a DKG candidate from Madagascar living in Belgium. We took advantage of the GSO and *Leadership Redefined* virtual meetings. A phone meeting was held with each new officer. Our past presidents, Marta Patiño-Douce and Barbara McConnell, share a wealth of knowledge and insight as we move forward. Their support is greatly appreciated as we sail through unfamiliar waters for meetings and programs.

The “*Secret Garden*” in my backyard has been the setting for several meetings where we are outside and can social distance. We established a phone buddy program for meetings. Our April “end of the biennium” meeting was held August 22nd at a local restaurant with outdoor seating. We are continuing to work out the best ways to meet and remain healthy and safe.

The pandemic has provided opportunities for us to work in the yard, sew masks, send cards, clean out closets (that we were going to get to one day), finish reading a book or two, have some family time, call friends, and re-evaluate priorities. βΣ has not been left in the dust but is seeded with new ideas and



opportunities to reach out to our community. Most of the flower pictures used in this newsletter are flowers growing in my garden, which enjoys the heat and rain more than I do. Stay tuned to see how βΣ continues to bloom throughout the coming seasons.



Stay safe and keep healthy.

Diane



WELCOME and FAREWELL

WELCOME

Kaela Sweeney



Kaela comes to Beta Sigma from Beta Upsilon chapter in Nashville, TN. She grew up in Athens, so she's coming home.

Kaela graduated from Miami University (Ohio) and has a master's degree from Vanderbilt. She has taught middle and high school English. Kaela will be teaching at Clarke Central High this fall.

Rebecca Weaver



Rebecca is our collegiate member. She teaches social studies/special education at Summerour Middle School in Gwinnett County schools.

She graduated from Kennesaw State University and is working on a PhD through Walden University to hopefully graduate in June 2022.

FAREWELL

We said a quick farewell to our former collegiate member, now DR. Rachel Rotz. Rachel was very active with $\beta\Sigma$, not only attending meetings and activities but also creating our website. She is an associate professor at Florida Gulf Coast University, Ft. Meyer.

Dr. Marta Patiño-Douce was instrumental in guiding Rachel. Marta had the chance to see Rachel's manuscript "*FLUX IN DRYLANDS ON EARTH AND MARS*" and wanted to share with you what Rachel wrote in her acknowledgements: *"I would also like to acknowledge Dr. Marta Patiño-Douce and the sisters of Delta Kappa Gamma whose kindness and support will forever guide me as an educator in the geosciences."*



Rachel, we wish you the all the best as you begin a new chapter in your education career.





Congratulations

Laurel and Audrey Hughes

Audrey celebrated her daughter, Laurel's virtual graduation with a Bachelor of Business Administration, Marketing, from Georgia College in Milledgeville.

Once again, Audrey led her students to another *national first place* documented below.



Media Advisory

National Energy Education Development (NEED) Project

Hilsman Middle School Recognized by The NEED Project

Manassas, Virginia – Students at Hilsman Middle School in Athens, Georgia spent most of their 2019-2020 school year engaged learning and teaching about science and the environment as part of teacher Audrey Hughes' classroom and extracurricular programs. Throughout the year students completed energy and environmental projects to recycle, practice conservation, teach others about energy, and consider a variety of pathways for energy and environmental careers. The capstone to their experience was to submit a project to the NEED Project Youth Awards for Energy Achievement with hopes of attending the 40th Annual NEED Youth Energy Conference and Awards in June 2020. Although the trip to Washington, DC is postponed until June 2021, NEED is hosting a virtual ceremony on June 29, 2020 for award winning students, teachers, and families.

The energy projects are planned and are implemented by students for students to educate their peers and communities about energy: the science, the sources, the uses, and the issues. The work of these students and teachers is of particular importance in a time of many energy challenges and opportunities.

Their project was reviewed by The NEED Project's National Review Panel and selected for top awards as the Georgia School of the Year and the National Junior Level School of the Year from among entries from 17 states. A summary of the award winning project is shown below:

On August 27 of 2019 Hilsman students moved into a brand-new energy efficient school building! The team learned energy basics throughout the year using NEED resources, taking field trips, consulting with experts, and hosting guest speakers. Efforts to educate others began with HilFest in August, the Athens Water Festival in September, Energy Awareness Month in October, and America Recycles Day events in November.

Hilsman students transitioned to distance learning in mid-March due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Energy Education Month started in person and went digital. The team continued to educate by sending energy lessons to students and teachers designed by team members and experts all spring long.

Throughout the year the team promoted energy education, conserving resources, and the Trash Hunger Campaign. More people learned that Energy is Essential: Everyday and in Emergencies!

Audrey also received a DKG Boylston Grant that will be used with students at her new school, Clarke Middle.



Jane Kelly



Jane grew up in Peoria, Illinois. She has one sister and two brothers. She married Paul Kelly, a UGA professor of sociology. They have four children, Kitty, John, Sue and Bill. John is an orthopedic surgeon in San Diego, and both daughters live in Athens. Bill died of leukemia in 1979. She is a grandmother of nine and great grandmother of seven.

Jane and Paul moved to various locations as he worked on his degrees. Jane followed suit working on her degrees and over the years took classes at 12 different colleges and universities. She accrued enough hours to receive a BS degree in the Classics and a Master and Education Specialist degree in Education from UGA. She is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. She began teaching in 1972. Jane was initiated into DKG in 1979; and served as Beta Sigma chapter president 1981-83.

Jane loves to travel and has been all over the world. She met the four minute mile runner, Roger Bannister, Headmaster of Pembroke College at Oxford in England and looks forward to “running into” other famous people. Due to the pandemic she had to cancel some cruises. When the new normal arrives, Jane will be traveling again. Other hobbies include cooking, reading non-fiction books on timely issues and applied history, swimming, and scuba diving. She keeps the chapter current on educational issues and participates in *DKG Day At The Capitol*.

Her sage advice: Live everyday as if it is your last. BE KIND. Her motto is Harvard’s: Veritas (Truth).

Jane notes a significant change in education that has taken place since she began her teaching career: “Life and study have gotten more stressful for serious students and harder to find well paying jobs, especially with automation.” She believes that the lack of discipline hinders learning. Too many students are more interested in technology and social media than more difficult studies.

Evelyn Wood



FLOWERS BLOOMING ALL OVER ATHENS

At a chapter meeting prior to the pandemic, members were given packets of flower seeds. Evelyn Wood and Barbara McConnell shared pictures of the seeds they planted. Look at how well they grew.

Evelyn grew sweet peas and Barbara has very tall sunflowers.





Dr. Dana McDougald

By Carolyn Howell

Dana McDougald was born on August 9, 1942 in Robinson, Illinois. Her father, Eugene Lovell, was from Texas and her mother, Martha Whetstone, was from Illinois. They met while he was employed by the Shell Oil Company and married in September of 1941. While Dana was still a baby he joined the army when he was 30 years old. He fought in the bloodiest battle of World War II, the Battle of Okinawa. After the war he resumed his employment at the Shell Oil Company which entailed him to move along with his wife and only child, Dana, to numerous states, including North Dakota, Oklahoma, Colorado just to name a few.

This had a tremendous impact on Dana's life. Dana attended 10 schools which was very disruptive to her studies and extracurricular activities. Nevertheless she joined the band and always succeeded in her challenges for 1st Chair in clarinet. Even though she had to adjust to so many school environments she was always proud of the fact that she graduated with honors from McAllister Oklahoma High School!

It was her parents' decision to send her to Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, Oklahoma. This was a life changing choice as this was a teachers' college and is how she actually chose the profession of teaching. The other life changing event was on her second day of classes she was in the cafeteria line and met her husband, Larry McDougald. When she was a sophomore she and Larry decided to marry over the vehement objections of her parents because she was only 19 and they did not feel Larry had a promising future. They warned her that she would never complete college. As Dana said perhaps she was a little stubborn and she set out to prove them wrong. She finished graduating on time. They were partners in their marriage, working and studying intermittently. Larry taught science in High School and then later pursued studies for his Master's and Doctorate at Kansas State in Manhattan, Kansas. She taught English in elementary school and French in Junior High in Junction City. One of the highlights of her teaching experience was being one of the first persons to teach in the Head Start Program during two summers. This was a very rewarding experience as she felt that she was able to make a difference in the lives of students from impoverished homes.

Larry took a position at UGA for his Post Doctorate with a famous parasitologist in Avian Medicine which changed the trajectory of his professional life. Dana is very proud of the fact that Larry continued to achieve worldwide recognition in this field. They adopted their 1st child, Charles, in 1967 and two years later adopted their second child, Tracey. Dana flew from Athens to Kansas to retrieve this Christmas blessing. She was born on December, 16th.

After two years at UGA, Larry took a job at Eli Lilly for seven years in Indiana. Her mother died at a very young age (43) and was never able to know her grandchildren nor any of the many professional successes of both Larry and Dana. Larry was sent on many trips as a consultant to many countries in Europe and Asia. Dana was able to accompany him and she was always impressed with the reverence that the scientists in these various countries held for Larry as he had assisted them in eliminating certain viruses in their poultry. To this day he still receives calls for advice from many of these scientists.

When they returned to UGA in 1977, Larry had accepted a position at UGA in the Poultry Science Department and Dana a position as a teacher at UGA in library science. After two years, Dana began at Cedar Shoals High School in 1979 as one of the media specialists. In 1983 she received her Doctorate degree from UGA in Adult Education with emphasis in Library Science. Dana's hobbies include knitting and crocheting sharing her handicrafts with her family, colleagues, friends and church. Dana taught Sunday School at her church, Holy Cross Lutheran for many years. In addition to her two children, she has three grandchildren and two great grandchildren. She is an avid reader and has eclectic tastes in many genres.

Dana has a talent for writing grants. While she was a Media Specialist at Cedar Shoals she received a lot of grant money in which to buy books for the library. In one case she bought 200 books in Spanish. One grant she wrote for the American Library Association enabled the library at Cedar Shoals to be named one of the top libraries in Secondary Schools in the United States. Dana has been a valued member of Delta Kappa Gamma, the Beta Sigma Chapter, since 1985. During those 35 years she served as Recording Secretary for many years.



THE BLOOMING CONTINUES

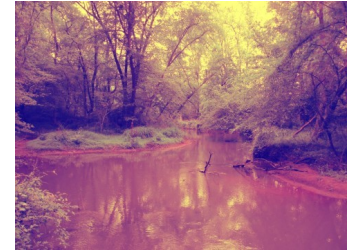
Members get together and have fun throughout the Pandemic:

In The Creek

Liz French and Audrey Hughes at Sandy Creek Nature Center

Click on the link and see what fun Liz and Audrey had. Hands on science at it's best for a sunny, hot, Georgia day.

<https://www.facebook.com/SandyCreekNatureCenter/videos/406500807397164>



France Boney and βΣ Sisters: Fun celebrating her 90-1 Birthday !



**Left front to back:
Barbara McConnell
France Boney
Jane Kelly**



89

And counting!!!

**Right front to back:
Virginia Macagnoni
Marta Patiño-Douce
Freda Giles
Diane Lutz**

Freda Giles, a member of the Beta Sigma Arts committee, shared the *Athens Virtual History Conference* link.

<https://www.historicathens.com/2020-virtual-history-conference>

Sessions included:

Athens African American Oral History Initiative, Brown Media Archives, The Linnentown Project, Athens Chapter of ASALH, Friends of Brooklyn Cemetery, Athens Regional Library System, and Athens Welcome Center.

This fall one of our chapter programs, taken from the link, will be an *Athens Music History Walking Tour*. Thank you Freda.



Beta Sigma Zooming continues our blooming!

GSO virtual leadership

Classes at middle, high and college levels

Meetings with a potential chapter candidate



Beta Sigma Chapter meetings and activities

August 22 - "Rockin' " the last and new bienniums

September 26 - Tim Mehan, OLLI

October 24- Doris Aldridge, Women to the World

November 14 - Walking Tour, Athens Music History, Dr. Freda Giles

December 5 - Holiday Brunch

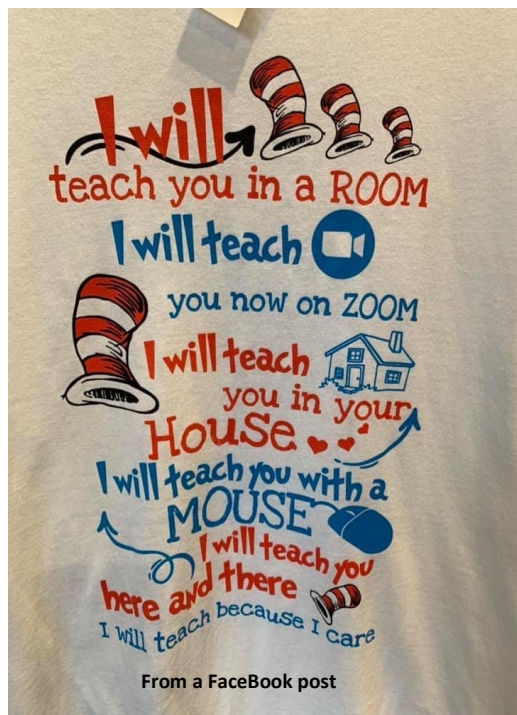
January 14 - Executive Board Meeting

February 13 - Joe Turnell, Mentor Program in Clarke County

March 9 - Georgia State Botanical Garden, Alice H. Richards Children's Garden. Gwen White, GSO District II Director will attend

April 10 - End of year luncheon. Dr. Kathy Brown, GSO President (invited)

Locations will be sensitive to social distancing and other health concerns.



Mystery Picture

Everyone probably has a fun picture of themselves. If you find one, send it to Diane or Liz for future newsletters.



Let's see if you can recognize them.
Answer revealed at the Sept. meeting

Food for Thought

From Apples & Chalkdust

Don't let your concern for tomorrow keep you from making an impact today.

Try to turn every situation, positive or negative, into a learning experience.

A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops. -Henry Adams





OUR LAST BLOOM OF SUMMER “Rockin’ Bienniums”

August 22, we celebrated and thanked Marta for her leadership of Beta Sigma over the past 4 years. She really “rocked our chapter”!

We had a fun luncheon, even with masks and social distancing, remembering all that she had done in the past biennium.

Thank you Marta!



Marta found her hammer!



Front L to R: Audrey Hughes, Liz French, Marta Patiño-Douce, Gwen Hartman, Rebecca Weaver, Sandra Gardner, Jane Kelly, Carolyn Howell.

Back L to R: Linda Griffith, Barbara McConnell, Diane Lutz

Phone buddies (not pictured): Beverly Tuttle, Rachel Rotz, Joyce Reynolds, Mary Burton, Kaela Sweeney



Marta’s box: Estwing hammer, pebbles, a geode, and a DKG past president’s pin



We’re now looking toward
a colorful fall!