

Foundation Matters

A publication of the Alpha Delta State Ohio Educational Foundation

Ohio State Organization
Delta Kappa Gamma Society

ADSOEF - funding the future of excellence in education

Volume 4 | Issue 2

August 15, 2024

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2023-2025

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A Word or Two from the Board of Directors

Your Board of Directors and ADSOEF committees are busy at work organizing for the 2024-2025 year. This marks our **eighth** year of existence in funding activities that support professional and personal growth of educators in Ohio and promote educational excellence for Ohio students.

- We, the Board of Directors, are currently completing the task of recruiting and securing volunteer members for various Foundation committee positions. To date, we have 37 individuals (5 are new recruits) who volunteer their time to do and accomplish the necessary work of ADSOEF, which in turn benefits our Ohio State Organization educators and Ohio's students and educators alike.
- The Finance Committee and the ADSOEF Treasurer are conducting the annual ADSOEF audit for the 2023-2024 fiscal year and will be reporting the audit results at a future Board of Directors meeting.
- The Fundraising Committee has spent the summer months preparing for the **2024-2025 Fundraising Campaign Roll Out** at the Fall OSO Executive Board Meeting on September 14, 2024.

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- Ohio educators are beginning to gear up for the upcoming school year. Our 2023-24 Esther H. Strickland Grant recipients are no different and are busy gearing up for their student teaching experiences too! We wish them well. Be sure to read, in this issue, the experiences of **Meghan Hudepohl** as she describes her spring student teacher adventures.
- Our 2023-24 A. Margaret Boyd Fellowship Grant recipient, **Mukadas Tashieva**, Kyrgyzstan, received an internship opportunity this summer at the FHI360 in Washington DC. Be sure to read, in this publication, her letter of appreciation for her American educational journey.
- It's August already (...where does the time go?) and you know what that signifies...summer breaks are swiftly coming to an end. It is our whole-hearted wish for all teachers, administrators, substitutes, tutors and students alike to have and enjoy a very productive and successful 2024-2025 school year!
- We welcome, invite, and encourage all to add your voice, your energy, your enthusiasm, your passion, your commitment to ADSOEF. We encourage your continued participation, appreciate your input, and truly value your ongoing and growing support of this Foundation. To contact us go to adsoef.org.

Eagerly looking forward to serving our membership in 2024-2025.

The ADSOEF Board of Directors

Thank you!

We, the ADSOEF Board of Directors appreciate, beyond measure, the ADSOEF/OSO members who have already agreed (very graciously we may add) to serve as committee members or committee chairs. The Board is indeed grateful for the positive responses received and the willingness of the membership to serve the Foundation. Look below at who your ADSOEF leaders are for 2024-25.

ALPHA DELTA STATE OHIO EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION COMMITTEES 2024-2025

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Barbara Smith, Zeta
Sue Samoviski, Chi

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Chris Snoddy, Alpha Lambda, Chairman
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JoAnn Krock, Zeta
M. Kathryn McClendon, Zeta
Candace Haudenschild, Alpha Psi
*Michele Maniskas, Alpha Xi
* Serves as liaison for both OSO and ADSOEF

FINANCE COMMITTEE

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Dr. Lois Harkins, Alpha Lambda, Treasurer
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Hannah Fairbanks, Gamma Theta

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Linda Diltz, Beta Rho, Co-chairman
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Holly Buente, Gamma Pi,
Joan Avery, Chi
Nancy Russell, Beta Kappa

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Sue Loader, Alpha Psi
Sandy Royer, Delta Kappa
Tammy Schroeder, Beta Eta
Joyce Jones-Weinkam, Gamma Xi

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Brenda Armstrong, OSO State Member,
Chairman
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Cathy Tenney, Beta Kappa
*Katie Gantz, Gamma Phi
*Serves as liaison for both OSO and ADSOEF

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Debby Canter, Delta Epsilon
Nancy Waters, Alpha Psi
Hannah Fairbanks, Gamma Theta

LIAISON TO OSO SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE*

Marilyn Slusser, Delta Kappa, Chairman

The OSO Scholarship Committee Members:

Nicole Burley
Sue Loader
Judith McClanahan

***OHIO STATE ORGANIZATION LIAISON TO THE ADSOEF BOARD**

OSO President Melodie McGee

*Is an ex-officio member, without vote, and the OSO liaison to the ADSOEF Board

***ADSOEF Board Chairman**

Diana L. Kirkpatrick, Alpha Delta, Chairman,
*Is an ex-officio member of these committees except for the Nominating Committee.

Educational Services Leadership Grant Report from Cathy Tenney My 2024 DKG International Conference Experience

The Educational Services Committee congratulates Cathy Tenney on finishing a successful Leadership Grant! She was awarded \$1,000.00 to attend the DKG International Convention in July of 2024. She will use this learning experience and networking opportunity to improve the marketing and communication of her chapter, OSO, and ADSOEF. Read about her experience below!

My journey to the 2024 DKG International Convention began last summer when I attended the 2023 DKG International Conference in Detroit with Joan Bostelman, Debby Canter, and Joyce Jones-Weinkam. After attending various breakout sessions and hearing from outstanding speakers, I was hooked! I knew then I had to attend the 2024 DKG International Convention in National Harbor, Maryland. The four of us immediately began making plans to attend the International Convention together.

Ohio was represented by ten OSO members at the 2024 DKG International Convention which provided an opportunity for us to forge new friendships within our group as well as with other Convention attendees. It was a great learning experience for me as well as eye opening on how DKG members from around the globe came together sharing how they are tackling the challenges that many chapters are facing. I had the opportunity to attend not only general sessions but also various breakout sessions on the importance

of communications with our members and others, how to market of DKG to non-members to grow our membership and making DKG relevant for all our members.

A very important order of business conducted at the convention was the consideration of 94 proposed amendments, many of which were carried over from the 2022 International Convention. We voted on all 94 proposed amendments before week's end along with several motions that were brought to the floor. I found the process of considering these amendments to be eye opening and a learning experience, it was so different from what I had previously experienced at the chapter and state level. It was through this process that I gained a new appreciation and respect for parliamentarians especially Dr. Helen Popovich, DKG International Parliamentarian.

We had the privilege of hearing from several outstanding convention speakers throughout the week. I was moved by Holocaust survivor Marion Blumental Lazan who shared her story of survival in the concentration camp and beginning a new life in the United States following the war. It is an important life story that we all need to hear especially today.

We had time for fellowship with our OSO members who attended as well as time to meet members from not only the U.S. but from Canada, Europe, Latin America and Mexico. I have learned to step outside the comfort of my chapter and expand my relationships with DKG members not only from Ohio but across the country. Thank you ADSOEF for assisting me financially to attend the 2024 DKG International Convention.

I would encourage all OSO members to step outside your comfort zone, open yourself up to new experiences, relationships and leadership opportunities within in your chapter, OSO and possibly at the international level. We are all key women educators and even though we may not be in the classroom any longer, we still play a very vital role in education through our membership in Delta Kappa Gamma! Let's work together to strengthen our chapters, OSO and DKG!

Cathy Tenney, Beta Kappa Chapter
Editor of *The Voice & Foundation Matters*

A Message from Mukadas Tashieva

Dear Esteemed DKG Community

I am Mukadas Tashieva, a Fulbright scholar who came to the United States with my family with the goal of opening doors of opportunity for children with disabilities in Kyrgyzstan. My dream is rooted in the belief that America will help me discover new methods to teach and create better educational opportunities for children with special needs. In this letter, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation for your continuous support in my educational journey at Kent State University through the Fulbright Foreign Students Program. Additionally, as a storytelling letter, I wish to share my first-year experiences—highlighting the challenges faced and successes achieved on my path to realizing the American dream for students with disabilities. I will also share significant moments from my study and family life over the past year.

Excitement about America Made Us Brave

Reflecting on our initial travel to the U.S., I agree with Mrs. Marilyn Slusser's words, "Mukadas, you are

brave,” when she called to discuss the amazing opportunity and great support from DKG. I was too excited at the time to fully appreciate her words, but now I understand. Our journey was marked by bravery—four days and 22 hours of flight from our mountainous country with four children and my husband. Entering a new country without knowing anyone or having a specific place to stay was a bold step, driven by the belief that our lives would change for the better.

We spent five days in a hotel searching for an apartment. Each day was filled with hope and new experiences. We navigated calling Uber taxis, asking for directions, and exploring places on foot with the whole family and going through the online application processes for every activity that we wanted to start such as: renting, school reenrollment, family insurance plan and visiting. Initially, finding an apartment was challenging due to the number of children and the lack of a credit score. Eventually, thanks to the Fulbright coordinator and student tips, we secured a student apartment for my family and received DKG support for our first household and children needs.

Learning about the U.S. Education System

Our four children were placed in different schools: Erika (4 years old) in pre-school, Temir (9 years old) in elementary school, Nurislam in middle school, and Bai (16 years old) in high school. This was a significant change from Kyrgyzstan, where they would have attended one school being different grades. We are grateful for the supportive schoolteachers and administration who eased our children's transition. My husband and I, both teachers, were eager to learn about each school's system, teaching approach, and opportunities for students.

Every evening, we shared our children's school experiences and practiced one-minute speeches on the topic “My day.” This activity helped to improve their speaking skills and allowed us to monitor their school adjustment. Our children excelled in their studies and joined school soccer teams. For example, all three boys are in the school and Kent city soccer teams, which is great chance to be involved into healthy lifestyle and have more friends. Moreover, we received thankful notes, certificates of achievements from subject teachers and attended parent-teacher meetings to discuss their progress. In addition, the experience of taking school buses, seen only in American movies, became a delightful reality for my daughter, who eagerly woke up early each morning to ride the bus. Celebrating American holidays also enriched our cultural integration, where we mostly enjoyed celebrating Thanksgiving Day and Christmas seeing people's unusual love and full of happy emotions everywhere on the street, shopping areas, at the university and schools. As if we were in the American dream, especially, when we receive a congratulation Christmas card from Gamma Pi Chapter with some financial support for our children holiday plans. We were so excited for the given attention, for the warm wishes and beliefs for our family success.

No Pain, No Gain

This section of my story focuses on my study journey at Kent State University, where nearly 80% of the learning process was completely new to me. The first semester (fall) was primarily dedicated to adjusting to the university's study process, student life, and the opportunities for independent learning. Additionally, mastering special education terms and regulations consumed almost two months of the semester. I had to create special cards, seek out additional resources, and immerse myself in various topics and course assignments to gain a deeper understanding. Balancing a comprehensive study plan for the semester, family responsibilities, and meeting assignment deadlines were some of the painful and challenging moments that significantly enhanced my time management and critical thinking skills.

A standout moment of the fall semester was the Case Study assignments, where I collaborated with American school students to analyze and support their reading skills. The second semester fully immersed

me in research, with two classes focusing on Special Education research and one on Curriculum

Development in Special Education. This experience truly embodied the saying "no pain, no gain." I felt like an athlete running a marathon, requiring persistence and hard work to achieve my goals. My aim was to earn "A" grades to meet my scholarship requirements, which was a formidable challenge.

Despite the difficulties, I was deeply engaged and inspired by my studies in special education. Through literature reviews and research projects, I discovered vast opportunities for children with disabilities to integrate into mainstream schools. This experience solidified my commitment and led me to decide to write a Thesis Statement for my graduate year. I believe this decision will empower me to develop inclusive education opportunities alongside special education in my country in the future. So far, I am pursuing my internship opportunities at the FHI360 in Washington D.C. where I succeeded to become a winner of the Muskie Fellowship for Fulbright students in the U.S. It gives me a great chance to be involved into the U.S. organization working experience and learn about the diversity at work, enhance my project writing skills for minority family children including children with special needs around the world. This is another great achievement during my study journey in the U.S.

In conclusion, I would like to say that A. Margaret Boyd sponsorship has significantly alleviated the financial burden of my education, allowing me to focus more intently on my studies and research. This support has not only provided me with the resources to excel academically but has also given me the confidence to pursue my goals with greater determination. Thanks to your generosity, I have been able to finish my first year successfully, become a Collegiate member of the Gamma Pi Chapter and presented at the International TESOL Convention panel discussion bringing our work with English teachers in Kyrgyzstan. These experiences have been invaluable to my personal and professional growth, and I am profoundly grateful for the opportunities you have made possible.

With gratitude

Mukadas Tashieva

Fulbright Program Scholar from Kyrgyzstan



We are Buz-z-zing with Excitement!

A new year has started for ADSOEF, and the Fundraising Committee is busily working on a new theme, logo, and goal. The committee is still in awe of the **\$19,144.38** our DKG/OSO members so generously donated over the past year. *Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!* We hope to keep that momentum going as we move forward. With that in mind, the **2024-2025 Fundraising Campaign** will be rolled out at the Fall OSO Executive Board Meeting on September 14, 2024.

If you are one of those faithful donors who is excited about supporting the grants, fellowships, classroom/community programs, and scholarships of ADSOEF, please don't hesitate to jump start this year's giving. Summer is the perfect time to recognize or remember someone special by donating to one of the ADSOEF funds. Remember, to be successful in growing the future of education, we must be *"Forward moving ever!"*

The ADSOEF Fundraising Committee

Joan Avery, Chi

Holly Buente, Gamma Pi

Nancy Russell, Beta Kappa

Foundation Matters

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August 15, 2024

Linda Diltz, Beta
chairman
Alpha Psi, Co-

Rho, Co-
Barb Zirke,
chairman

Alpha Delta State Ohio



Educational Foundation

Dr. Norma Kirby
In memory of Mary Sue Spengler

Kathleen O'Malley
In memory of Ellen Andrews

Gamma Mu



Meghan Hudedpohl's Student Teaching Experience

Hello everyone! My name is Meghan Hudedpohl, and I was honored to be the recipient of an Esther H. Strickland Student Teaching Grant. The grant was a huge support to me in the completion of my third-grade student teaching placement at Clifton Area Neighborhood School in Cincinnati, Ohio.

My time in this field placement grew me not only as a teacher, but as a person. I developed great relationships with my class, and it was incredible to watch their growth throughout the school year. One student I worked with one-on-one nearly every day improved her reading score by two grade levels by the conclusion of the school year, and seeing the pride she had in herself is what solidified my love for this profession.

My amazing mentor teacher not only gave me the support I needed to improve as an educator, but also gave me the freedom to try new ideas, and, sometimes even more importantly, make mistakes and learn from them.

I got to be a part of many fun memories with my students, especially including our field trip to a local immersive park where they got to see what life was like in the 1800s, and a field trip to see *SpongeBob the Musical*. I also got to participate in spirit week and support them at their Fine Arts Showcase. Feeling so involved in the school culture has me so excited to start my full-time teaching position next year and continue to be a part of what makes school fun!

This scholarship was invaluable to my experience as a student teacher, especially since it gave me the financial freedom to pursue one of my greatest passions: special education. Due to my love for both elementary and special education, I made the decision to pursue a final semester of school this summer to add on an additional intervention specialist license to my preschool to fifth grade license. This license will also allow me to start my position that I have accepted for next year as a third to fifth grade intervention

specialist at Seven Hills Schools in Cincinnati. This grant made this possible by giving me the ability to finance my additional education. I am eternally grateful for your organization's support of my career, and your generosity in naming me as a recipient.



Capture it . . .for the ADSOEF Newsletter

When your chapter plans a fundraising project for the foundation (ADSOEF), remember to snap a photo so we can feature and celebrate your successful idea/s in our ***Foundation Matters*** newsletter. Or (option #2), if your chapter decides to donate, monetary or otherwise, take a snapshot of members with the item being donated. Be sure to provide your chapter's name, identify the individuals in the photo, and give a brief description of the event. Send photo, with information, to us in an email.

****Label your email: **Capture it... for ADSOEF** and **send the email with the photo and information to:** Editor Cathy Tenney at editor@dkgohio.org

Into the Future...Important Dates to Remember!

August 19, 2024 – 7:00 PM

ADSOEF Board of Directors Meeting

September 14, 2024

OSO Fall Executive Board Meeting

9:30 AM to 2:30 PM

Quest Conference Center

9200 Worthington Rd. Suite 400

Westerville, Ohio

September 15, 2024

Foundation Matters arrives in your mailbox

September 16, 2024 – 7:00 PM

ADSOEF Board of Directors Meeting

October 8, 2024 – 6:30 PM

Fundraising Committee Meeting

October 15, 2024

Foundation Matters arrives in your email

October 21, 2024 – 7:00 PM

ADSOEF Board of Directors Meeting

November 6, 2024 – 6:30 PM

Fundraising Committee Meeting

November 15, 2024

Foundation Matter arrives in your email

November 18, 2024 – 7:00 PM

ADSOEF Board of Directors Meeting



ALPHA DELTA STATE OHIO EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

funding the future of excellence in education

Contribution Form

- Please use a separate contribution form if you are making more than one donation.
- A contribution acknowledgement will be sent in honor or in memory of the person designated below.
- Contributions or bequests are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.
- Checks should be made payable to Alpha Delta State Ohio Educational Foundation (ADSOEF) and should be mailed with this form to:

Dr. Lois Harkins
12 N. Shafer Street
Athens, OH 45701-2303

Date: _____ Amount: _____

Cash (In-person only)

Check # _____

(Please Circle)

This contribution is designated for:

____ The programs of Alpha Delta State Educational Foundation (without restriction)

____ Educational Projects Fund (Classroom/School/Community)

____ Scholarship Fund (Annie Webb Blanton)

____ International Studies Fund (A. Margaret Boyd)

____ Leadership Fund

____ Student Teacher Grant Fund (Esther H. Strickland)

____ Lifelong Learning Fund

____ Jane Brundige Stein Scholarship Fund

____ Florence L. Woodward Scholarship Fund

Donor Information (name of individual, chapter, or group)

Name _____

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City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

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____ I wish to remain anonymous.

In MEMORY OF or IN HONOR OF (circle one)

Name _____

Contact Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Donations can also be made by visiting adsoef.org and donating online using PayPal or a credit card.

Alpha Delta State Ohio Educational Foundation 10/23