Slide #1

Congratulations on being an active member of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International! As an exceptional educator with potential for both personal and professional growth, you join over 60,000 women in 17 countries to impact education worldwide. We believe every member should know the twelve dynamic women educators who met in Austin, Texas, in May of 1929 to found the Society, not a sorority. Our international organization was founded by well-educated and forward-thinking women, so every member should learn our history, realizing that our DKG experience today is a direct result of these amazing women’s clarity of vision, fortitude with which they held the course, and courage of breakers of precedents. [111 words]

Slide #2

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International was founded May 11, 1929, at the Faculty Women’s Club at the University of Texas, Austin. Dr. Annie Webb Blanton conceived the idea of an organization for women educators, and eleven women educators from Texas who represented various professional positions in education were initiated by Dr. Blanton. The Alpha Chapter subsequently placed a plaque where the Women's Club once stood on campus. Dr. Blanton was a groundbreaking educator as the first female state superintendent of public instruction in Texas. She began her career in a one-room rural schoolhouse at age 17, later earning her Bachelor in Literature at the University of Texas. After teaching in Austin for several years, she went to North Texas Normal School as an Associate Professor and finished her career her at the University of Texas as chair of the Department of History and Education after completing her Ph.D. in rural education at Cornell University. [155 words]

Slide #3

Founder Mamie Sue Bastion taught all elementary grades and subjects but loved arithmetic. She later served as a principal, worked successfully for a teacher retirement system, and formed the Houston Teachers and Houston Principals Associations. She loved fun and music and initiated the Birthday Luncheon.

Founder Ruby Cole was a meticulous elementary school principal who worked for adequate funding for public schools. She established the processes, structure, and rituals for chapter use. San Antonio benefited from her dedication to restore missions, establish parks, purchase historical landmarks, and create a public library.

Founder Mabel Grizzard served as a teacher and principal in Waxahachie for more than 40 years. She thought it was important to teach the basics and develop good citizens. A lifelong learner, she spent many summers attending universities to keep abreast of teacher training methods, and she enjoyed reading, playing bridge, and collecting commemorative plates. [146 words]

Slide #4

Founder Dr. Anna Hiss was the head of the Physical Education Department at UT-Austin and instrumental in establishing the professional degree in physical education. The Anna Hiss Gymnasium still stands on the campus. Telling entertaining stories to audiences of all ages, reading poetry, and playing music were her loves.

Founder Ray King served as chair of her high school History Department and spent summers traveling across the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. She was the first Society treasurer and participated in laying the cornerstone for International Headquarters. In her free time, she enjoyed reading, needlepoint, raising African violets.

Founder Sue King, Ray King’s sister, as a Latin teacher loved history and languages. She graduated with high honors from the University of California. She enjoyed reading, tennis, and bridge. Unfortunately, she died one short year after the founding of Delta Kappa Gamma.

Founder Dr. Helen Koch was a renowned child psychology professor at the University of Texas and the University of Chicago. Her 12-year twins study is still referenced in child psychology literature today. She viewed DKG as an organization that could improve the lives of women educators and children. Traveling extensively, she took great joy in being a “globe-trotter.” [198 words]

Slide #5

Founder Ruby Terrill Lomax taught secondary and collegiate students Latin before returning to the University of Texas to serve as the Dean of Women and Associate Professor of Classical Languages. The Society’s first parliamentarian, she truly enjoyed speaking before audiences, entertaining and enlightening them with her intellect and wit.

Founder Dr. Cora Martin organized the Elementary Education program at the University of Texas and wrote a series of children’s readers*.* Along with Annie Webb Blanton, she wrote the lyrics to the *Delta Kappa Gamma Song* to the melody from the Welsh military song “Men of Harlech.” She enjoyed entertaining audiences as well as leading the singing in meetings.

Founder Lalla M. Odom earned her bachelor’s degree by age 17 and enrolled in the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. Teaching in Oklahoma, she met her famous student, humorist Will Rogers. Faced with losing her job after marriage, she persuaded the School Board to allow married women to teach. As Alpha Chapter’s first president, she turned the first spade-full of earth for the Headquarters building.

Founder Lela Lee Williams spent 45 years serving Dallas students. As an organizer of the Texas State Teachers Association, she promoted equity in salary schedules and worked to improve rural schools. Aside from her love of education, she enjoyed entertaining her many friends and colleagues. [217 words]

Slide #6

So what have we learned about our international Founders? We now know the 12 women who founded our Society in Austin, Texas, in 1929 were dedicated university professors, innovative school principals, world travelers, respected authors, and champions of female educators. Complete the five-question activity for module one: “International Founders” and submit to DKG.member.edu@gmail.com for credit.