The Professional Association in Education



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER PROVIDING RESEARCH, LEADERSHIP, AND SERVICE SINCE 1955 UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO CHAPTER www.pdk-ut.ca

June 2013

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Programme Chair

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- AGM 2013

Mark your Calendar!

ChalkWalk

Sat morning Oct. 5 at Wilket Creek (Leslie & Eglinton)



Research Series #1: Learning in the 21st Century

Oct 15. At OISE 7-9 pm



President's Message - Dr. Bev Freedman

Bev's Introduction of Mary Jean Gallagher at the 2013 AGM

Instead of listing her qualifications and awards, I'd rather tell the story of why Mary Jean Gallagher is our PDK-UT Outstanding Educator for 2013.

I assist with The Learning Partnership's Outstanding Principals' Program. Three years ago, I was at the Rotman School of Management. Our guest speaker was Dr. Walid Hejazi, an. Associate Professor of International Business at the Rotman (with a cross-appointment at the Department of Management at the University of Toronto-Scarborough).

His research interests focuses on Canadian competitiveness, multinational business strategies and globalization. Walid's teaching interests are money and banking, financial economics and business statistics. His research has been published in *International Advances in Economic Research*, *Policy Options*, and the Canadian Journal of Economics, among others.

He said to us, (it was early Sunday morning) that although he had a busy family and he had other places to be, he stayed because, "teaching can be a force of good or evil.".

He told us that he had come to Windsor as a young boy from Syria as a young boy. He was known in those days as Wally. The school put him behind several grades because of his lack of English. His elementary teachers mistakenly thought that he was not capable of going to university and that he should take general level courses in high school. With luck, he would be working at the "Motors" due the plethora of jobs in the auto sector. His parents, being immigrants, followed the teacher's advice and registered him in general courses at the local high school.

There he remained until his grade 10 math teacher noticed his capabilities. She said that he was bright particularly in math and should go to university. She worked with the guidance department and the administration to ensure he took advanced courses and assured he was university bound. In fact, he went on to Harvard.

This was Sunday morning. By the Tuesday closing banquet, we were made aware what he meant by "teaching is a force for good or evil." Standing in front of Dr. Hajiz was Mary Jean Gallagher, our chief Student Achievement Officer. He tapped her on the shoulder and said, "You may not remember me. You taught me grade 10 and changed my life."

We honour Mary Jean as our Outstanding Educator for her continuing impact on education and for her dedication to excellence and equity.



L: Mary Jean
Gallagher, with the
support of her
husband, accepting
her PDK 2013
Outstanding
Educator Award.
R: Incoming President
Tim Rudan with award
winner Khadija
Waseem &Program
Chair, John Myers.



RESEARCH



Bev's Findings

The International Holistic Tourism Education Centre:
IHTEC's Peace and Sustainability Education
towards vital 21st Century Curriculum Change

This research is the result of studies with Science for Peace and Canadian Pugwash, Global Issues Project who are based at the University of Toronto. http://www.scienceforpeace.ca/global-issues-project/

Global commons issues and their implementation into classrooms.

IHTEC is a Canadian Educational Charity non-government organization (NGO) with a focus on schools. It began in 1993 with the International School Peace Gardens (ISPG) curriculum. This curriculum has a focus on purposeful teaching with regards to bio-diversity loss, reduction of carbon emissions for climate change, food security, and now, discussion of the removal of plastics on land. These plastics get into rivers, the great lakes and the ocean, thus affecting the web of life.

The peace garden is a place of conflict resolution, analyzing global issues and teaching them locally to find a resolution. Schools in Ontario are invited to register their peace gardens, and will receive a certificate if they haven't already done so. If the original is lost, please hold a rededication ceremony, and contact us for another certificate. www.ihtec.org

IHTEC has been a virtual online member of PDK Hawaii since 2005 and has fostered the PDK Hawaii School Peace Gardens. PDK members have linked a 'path of peace' from Kindergarten through elementary, secondary to the University of Hawaii Faculty of Education, and they are developing and implementing sustainability education at all levels. IHTEC has held International School Peace Gardens (ISPG) workshops, and encouraged school principals to hold annual dedications.

As Hawaii has only two weeks of food on the islands at any one time, it has been a vital example of cooperation, with several other NGO's, in food security. Their inter-cultural understanding of 'aloha' values and the significance of the taro plant, coupled with the urgent need to nurture their fresh water, where the freshwater table is close to the salt water. It has made this work an important factor towards curriculum change.

Research has begun to point to the effectiveness of this work. As an extension of IHTEC's involvement, an invitation was extended from the Polynesian Voyaging Society, to help with peace and sustainability education. Their trained youth, will sail the 'Hôkûle'a a replica of the original Polynesian double-hulled voyaging canoe, by wind, stars, and ocean swells, around the world from June 2013 to 2017. They are planning to encourage the implementation of the ISPG program wherever they visit.

IHTEC is a part of another team of innovative educators. See http://hokulea.org/ Since 2008, in the Niagara Region in Ontario, five secondary schools have planted peace gardens, as part of many partners working together with the City of NiagaraFalls and the Niagara Parks Commission. IHTEC has been a partner of the Binational Alliance, which launched a Binational Heritage Peace Garden Trail as an 1812 Bicentennial initiative in 2010 and now has 24 Peace Gardens located around the southern Great Lakes with more than 60 anticipated by the end of 2014. Complete details are available at

www.binationalheritagepeacegardentrail.com

IHTEC has developed programs for community action and involvement. i.e. World Water Day involved the relationship between water held in large trees, the replanting of the Carolinian Life Zone and keeping water where it is. New developments, we hope, will include involving schools in the ISPG program in time for the Flora Niagara Canada 2017 event, where 50 countries will showcase horticultural achievements. This event will be a major tourism destination for Ontario and Canada. http://floraniagara.com/

To learn more about activities and resources, including lesson plans, that connects with IHTEC's vision, check out these contacts: http://www.deckchairlearning.com/
http://www.toronto2015.org/
http://www.toronto2015.org/
http://www.toronto2015.org/
http://www.toronto2015.org/



For internship info for graduate students Email:Julia Morton-Marr, President, IHTEC. Tel: +1-905-820-5067

Kappan Julia Morton-Marr founded the International Holistic Tourism Education Centre - IHTEC, and its flagship program International School Peace Gardens. Julia is an educator who has been honoured as one of nine Canadian women in the "1000 Peace Women Across the Globe" and nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for three consecutive years.

RESEARCH, LEADERSHIP, SERVICE, & MEMBERSHIP CONNECTIONS



Kari Peters missed the AGM because..... From Kari Peters

I had the amazing opportunity to attend and present, along with my principal Anthony Hack and my vice-principal Duncan Leblanc, at the Canadian Association of Principals CAP 2013 conference in Banff, Alberta. We presented "**No Excuses! Strategies for At-Risk Learners in Toronto's Inner City**.

The following is our workshop description:

On July 16th 2012 the city of Toronto experienced a mass shooting at a community barbeque. In the city's worst incidence of gun violence to date two young lives were lost and twenty two others had suffered gunshot wounds. Just three hundred metres away stood Sir Robert L. Borden Business and Technical institute. The school and students are all too familiar with the challenges of residing in a priority neighbourhood where poverty and crime are a lived reality. Our students arrive all considered "at-risk" learners who have disengaged at some point during their elementary years. Students typically enter Borden with grade 4/5 Literacy and Numeracy skills and over 70% of the student population have been formally identified with a learning disability. A further challenge is that a disproportionate number of students suffer from mental health issues requiring intensive school and community support.

We heard the story of how the school has managed to increase credit accumulation by 25%, increase standardized numeracy scores threefold, while over the same time period decreasing suspension rates by 60%. Practical and transferable strategies were shared in the areas of community supports, student interventions, student engagement, 21st century learning, and leading the instructional program.

Presenters were: Sir Ken Robinson, Simon Breakspear, Richard Gerver and Jannie Jeppesen. I learned the most from Jannie Jeppesen's story about her Vittra Telephon school in Sweden I was truly inspired and am looking forward to applying what I learned to supporting the teachers in our 21st century classroom.

RESEARCH SERIES for 2103-14

Next year's programme will focus on "21st Century Education". This series aims to help teachers

- figure out what is being asked of them that is different than in the previous generation
- · what aspects of schooling have not changed
- how can we meet the challenges of educating students for life in an increasingly diverse and technologically changing environment whose future is both uncertain and unpredictable?





Research Writing Thank You to Dr. Bev Freedman who has written <u>Bev's Findings</u>, our research column for several years.

Our research page will be written by guest columnists. Our next two columns will be written by Kappans Margaret-Mary (Boni) Thompson and Ben Levin. We invite suggestions for future research columnists.

For a full Listing of our Chapter's Executive Team, visit our website. www.pdk-ut.ca

PROGRAMME AND DUE DATES FOR AWARDS FOR 2103-14. VISIT <u>www.pdk-ut.ca</u> for more details. <u>Note:</u> Our research series for 2013-14 will focus on "Learning for the 21st Century". Each session can stand alone; attendees of all three receive a certificate. Questions: John Myers johnjcmyers.myers@utoronto.ca 416-978-0197 or Tim Rudan timrudan@hotmail.com 416-736-2100

		Doctoral Dissertation Award application	
		Due	
ChalkWalk	Saturday	ChalkWalk at Wilket Creek (Leslie & Eglinton)	9:00 AM-12:00
	October 5		PM
		Learning for the 21st Century	
Research Series #1	Tuesday	Presenter: Karen Grose	7:00 pm – 9:15
(1 of 3)	Oct. 15	Location- OISE (252 Bloor (St. George	pm
		Subway Station)Room TBA	



Award winners Fatima Jaffar, Ken Hoffman and Khadija Waseem were initiates as members at the AGM.

Carolyn Moras, Bill Velos and Foundation Rep, Zenobia Omarali discussing the importance of ChalkWalk funding the awards.

ChalkWalk 2013

ChalkWalk is the main fundraiser for our Chapter and funds all of our Awards Program. It also supports PDK's involvement with Spelling Bee Chapters which Kappans organize as service activities. Our Award winners (pictured above) appreciated the recognition and the cheques.

Fatima Jaffar is the Susan Seidman Excellence in Student Teaching 2013 winner.

Ken Hoffman is the 2013 Jackman winner.

Khadija Waseem is the 2013 Prospective Educator winner and is already giving back to PDK by being a valued member of the ChalkWalk Committee.

Our ChalkWalk committee provides leadership opportunities for all Kappans. It is wonderful to see our young award winners use this opportunity to build their skills, their resumes and their networking. The ChalkWalk Co-Chair, Nehal Patel, was the 2012 Susan Seidman Excellence in Student Teaching Award.



President Tim Rudan



Programme Chair John Myers



Newsletter Editor Shak Ahad



Membership Chair Nancy Nightingale



Foundation Rep Zenobia Omarali

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