



**CAROLYN MORAS
CHAPTER PRESIDENT**

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

All Kappans are committed to having high quality education, regardless of our role and career phase in the educational field. Reading online educational newsletters, news briefs and print journals reveals patterns of difficulties and issues. Stress shows; pressures abound on the system and on our own educational spheres. Critics are easy to find.

Public education is a jewel that we need to preserve-as a democratic force, as an opportunity. More than ever, we need to look at why it is under siege, and learn about and celebrate some of the concrete action and programmes that are underway. In his book titled Governing Education, Ben Levin, Ontario's Assistant Deputy Minister, wrote that improving education and government requires being visionary, being realistic, and being optimistic all at the same time. As you peruse the flyers for our Public Education series, "The Treasure That is Public Education", you will see our invitation to some examining of the realism of the challenges and celebrating of visionary projects that bring optimism.

Our PDK chapter started September with an outreach activity -hosting a storefront table with information about PDK and about our awards' schedule at OISE's orientation for new teachers. A message of invitation, of accessibility was given by Dean Jane Gaskell and Assistant Dean Carol Rolheiser and many OISE instructors mingling with students and presenters at the Orientation. The image of Dean Gaskell sitting and chatting with a group of student teachers as they enjoyed their pizza lunch modeled interaction and engagement.

The September Event, with an initiation and recognition of two members for 25 years membership in PDK was a fun, warm social.

We closed September with our local chapter's Walk for Education. Our walk is part of PDK's International Walk for Education. Mayor David Miller, who joined us for the walk, reiterated the necessity of a strong public education system with access for all. CTV came to add a Kappan voice and insight to their feature piece on plagiarism.

October will find some Kappans at OISE on a Saturday presenting Assessment Workshops in partnership with Student Services. There will be a PDK information table as well. Then, it is off to PDK's International Conference in Washington, "A Summit on Public Education." We encourage members to answer the call for proposals for PDK's International Summit on Global Education to be held in Vancouver in October, 2007.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST CANADIAN CML: SUSAN SEIDMAN

The University of Toronto chapter is pleased to announce that Susan Seidman, Past President and current Foundation Chair of the chapter, is now officially a Chapter and Member Liaison Representative. Susan is the first U of T member to hold an office beyond the chapter level since Ned McKeown (President 1970-71).

She will be sharing the role with John Stewart of London, Ont. Our chapter has benefitted from John's emphasis on leadership development. John has been the CML for chapters in Toronto, London, Ottawa, and Montreal; now it is John and Susan. Susan will also concentrate on Future Education Associations in Canada.



Event hostess Eleanor Pierre and Jocelyn Badovinac take part in Maria Castelhana's Initiation Ceremony.



Membership Co-Chairs Moveta Nanton and Jose Rodrigues presented Valerie Girhiny and Moira Jane Plexman's with their 25-year membership at the September Event.

THE SEPTEMBER EVENT

We had a great party on Thursday night, September 14th at the Snug Harbour in Port Credit. Eleanor Pierre, coordinator of the event, planned a super evening that was both fun and significant. We had an opportunity to celebrate and value the 25 year service record of Moira Jane Plexman and Valerie Girhiny. Maria Castelhana was warmly welcomed as an initiate. Jocelyn Badovinac creatively orchestrated the shape and the flow of the ceremony so that Maria's initiation was warm and special. She was ably assisted by Walt Winchell, John Myers, Diana Vago and Eleanor Pierre. Fine food and conversation capped off another worthwhile and enjoyable event.



Robert Hookey

NEW TEACHER SERIES: THE MEANEST TEACHER EVER!

This was the award handed to me, just last week. There are probably many of you reading this thinking that you are the true owner of this illustrious title, but I assure you, it is all mine. The person who gave me the award made sure to say it three times, for the benefit of both his classmates and myself. No second-guessing on this one. Now you might be asking yourself, okay – I wonder what she did to achieve it. I am happy to share my strategies, in case you are looking to knock me out at the next awards ceremony.

I asked the presenter of this award to log off from the computer he was on (without permission I might add) and to join the class in the middle of the room for the day's activity. Okay – to be specific I asked a few times, each with the exactly same tone and polite request. There is no sense in getting angry or flustered – right then they know they have won. My third request – one that came with "Make a choice" attached, did the trick. He moved, joined us in the middle and out came those words we all strive to hear "Miss – You are the meanest teacher ever." So I asked – "Mean, or really the meanest teacher ever?" "The *meanest* teacher **EVER**" he replied.

It is at this point that you need to make a decision yourself. Take it personally, cry on the inside and think that you have failed, because not every student loves you, or you can take it for what it is – nothing to do with you. I actually thanked the student, said that I had finally achieved my goal. I even thanked the academy. He didn't know what to do. So he tried again to tell me that I was the award winner. I again let him know that I was thrilled, and even polled the class to make sure they knew I had won (this caused some difficulties as some of my audience did not agree, but I asked them not to burst my bubble.) I then told him he had made his point clear and he did not need to say it again. Did it work you ask? Yes! He was quiet, completed the activity and did not provide any more disruptions.

The moral of this true, tongue-in-cheek, story? They will attempt to hurt you. It is your choice to let them. Just as it is their choice to decide how to behave. I follow the "ask, tell, demand" approach. They know by the "Make a choice" stage they are in control and it is their decision to obey or go. Most choose to stay. For the few that do choose to go, I make sure they know it was their decision to leave – it wasn't mine. "I'm sorry you made that decision" as they are leaving for the office leaves the weight of their actions on their shoulders, not yours, leaving you free to plan the ways you can maintain your title.



Kari Peters

Tech Tip: Thinking Outside the Box - Viable Technology Alternatives

Typically we may all use MS Windows '98, 2000 or XP as our OS – **or do we?** Many of us rely solely on MS Office for our basic software – **or...?** We tend to use either MS Explorer or Netscape browsers – **or...?** We will generally rely solely on our Sympatico, Rogers or MSN HotMail e-mail accounts – **or...?** Are there any alternatives for which we should be aware??



Walt Winchell
Tech Advisor

In our previous *Tech Tip* we briefly overviewed some external back-up strategies prior to peeking inside to look at our technology hardware; now we will look at alternative operating systems, internet browsers and alternative e-mail clients. There are very viable alternatives to each of the above and while we may not wish to change, we should be mindful of the possibilities, *just in case...* For example, the Open Source software community has been working diligently on the various distributions of the Linux OS, such as Red Hat Fedora, Xandros, Debian, Novell/SuSE, Mandrake, Slackware, Free BSD, Yellow Dog, Turbo Linux, Caldera, Gentoo, Gnome, Freespire and Ubuntu, as some of the more widely used Linux OS versions.

The Linux OS, while typically not as widely used as MS Windows XP or Mac's OSX, does offer many distinct advantages, the first of which is a direct on-ramp amongst the *Open Source Tools and Software community* that has been growing exponentially; secondly and perhaps significantly, Linux (at least for the moment) is almost totally immune from viruses. This point is most critical now than ever before, because we have recently been advised that the Mac OSX operating system has now been under attack, albeit in a quiet manner, for the moment.

For the Apple Mac users, both Linux and Windows XP can be run on new Intel dual-core and quad-core Macs, when configured for dual-boot start-up; and it is now possible to achieve a dual-desktop configuration for this new machine, running both Windows XP and Mac OSX simultaneously. Possibly this will be a point of future discussion for Steve Jobs and Bill Gates over coffee...

Do you have something you may wish to share on technology? If so, please contact: walt.winchell@gmail.com

FOUNDATION REPORT: UT CHAPTER'S DOCTORAL DISSERTATION WINNER

PDK's Doctoral Dissertation award carries both money and high prestige, as excerpts will be published in *The Kappan*. UT Chapter's Doctoral Dissertation winner is Dr. Sheryl Freeman, whose thesis is entitled: *THE INTERSECTION OF POLICY AND PRACTICE IN ONE-STAND ALONE VOCATIONAL SCHOOL: THE ABC STORY*.



Susan Seidman
Foundation Chair

The committee, co-ordinated by Mary and Robert Hookey, was chaired by Clay Lafleur, and included Shak Ahad and Susan Seidman. The committee was impressed not only with the quality of the submissions, but also the clarity of the criteria established by PDK. Refer to the website for a fuller story and a dissertation link.

DR. SHERYL FREEMAN, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO DOCTORAL DISSERTATION AWARD WINNER

Sheryl Freeman is a secondary school principal with the Toronto District School Board. Her long time interests in secondary school culture and school reform culminated in her doctoral thesis, *The Intersection of Policy and Practice in One Stand Alone Vocational School, The ABC Story* (April, 2006). Presently Sheryl divides her energies between policy and practice continuing as a secondary school principal and investigating issues notably in the area of school and work apprenticeship. (sheryl.freeman@tdsb.on.ca)

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY



Jose Rodrigues & Moveta Nanton
Membership Co-Chairs

We are putting together a member's directory that will list your name, address, email and telephone numbers and educational affiliation- i.e. school board, university, etc. This, we feel, will help facilitate communication between members. Note that only PDK members will have access to this directory. Please complete the enclosed form and return it to Jose Rodriguez or email him.

jose.rodriguez@peelsb.com



Dr. Sheryl
Freeman
Doctoral
Dissertation
Award
Winner

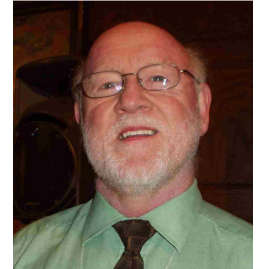
Please visit us our chapter online at www.pdk-ut.ca
& PDK International at www.pdkintl.org or call 1-800-766-1156

Program for 2006-7

Event	Date	Location	Time
Trinity Chamber Ensemble Concert	Sun., Oct. 22	Church of the Transfiguration, 111 Manor Road East	7:30 pm
Public Education Series, Session I "In defense of public education, what are the challenges?"	Thurs., Nov. 2	Room 4-410, OISE/UT, 252 Bloor St. W.	7:00 - 8:30 pm
Niagara Falls PDK Get Together	Sat., Nov. 4	Michael's Inn, Niagara Falls	5:00 pm
Public Education Series, Session II "Inner city Model schools: the process, Purpose, and Vision of the inner City Model School Project"	Thurs., Nov. 23	Nelson Mandela School	7:00 - 8:30 pm
PDK Book Club	Sat., Dec. 2	Contact Mary El Milosh for directions	7:00 pm
Trinity Chamber Ensemble Concert	Sun., Dec. 3	Church of the Transfiguration, 111 Manor Road East	7:30 pm
Public Education Series, Session III Can "leadership" solve all school problems?"	Thurs., Jan. 18	Firgrove P.S.	7:00 - 8:30 pm
Public Education Series, Session IV "The Public's Perceptions of Public Education"	Thurs., Feb. 22	Eastdale Secondary School	7:00 - 8:30 pm
Annual General Meeting	Thurs., May 3	Faculty Club, University of Toronto	6:00 pm reception 6:30 pm dinner



Stephanie Fetterolf
Program Co-Chair



John Myers
Program Co-Chair

BOOK CLUB

As a new activity for PDK members, we are starting a book club. We are having our first discussion group on Saturday, December 2nd at 7:00 p.m. Our hostess will be Sheila Bennett and our facilitator will be Peter Ross. The book we will be discussing is, *Bowling Alone*, a thoroughly engaging examination of what all has happened to civic engagement and what can be done about it. We are hoping to derive some useful ideas to use in the ongoing reinvigoration of our PDK chapter. If you are interested in attending this premier book club meeting, please contact Mary El Milosh at 416.229.0496, or maryelmilosh@hotmail.com. You are most welcome and we would be delighted to have you join us!



Mary El Milosh



OUR CHAPTER'S EXECUTIVE TEAM

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Co-Chairs of Prospective Educator & Excellence in Student Teaching

Awards: David Keffer & Moveta Nanton

Chair of Jackman Award: Ruth Childs

Chair of Doctoral Dissertation Award: Clay Lafleur

Coordinator of Book Club: Mary El Milosh

Coordinator of Event Reporting: Ed Badovinac

Advisory Board: Lloyd Augustus, Lorna Earl, Mary Hookey, Robert Hookey, Elizabeth Manker, Eleanor Pierre, Peter Ross, Peggy Stewart, & Jim Youngson

Members At Large: Maria Castelhana, Liz Hemmerick, & Diana Vago

If you are interested in writing or have any suggestions for future newsletters, please contact Pauline Shou at pauline.shou@gmail.com



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Editor