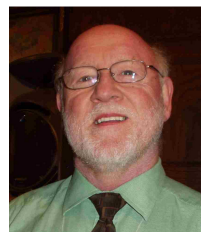


Program for 2006-7

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
Trinity Chamber Ensemble Concert	Sun., Mar. 4	Church of the Transfiguration, 111 Manor Road East	7:30 pm
Niagara Falls PDK Get Together	Sat., Mar. 31	Michael's Inn, Niagara Falls	5:00 dinner
Annual General Meeting	Thurs., May 3	Faculty Club, University of Toronto	6:00 pm reception 6:30 pm dinner
Trinity Chamber Ensemble Concert	Sun., Apr. 29	Church of the Transfiguration, 111 Manor Road East	7:30 pm
Niagara Falls PDK Get Together	Fri., May 4	Michael's Inn, Niagara Falls	5:00 dinner
June social	Thurs., June 7	TBA	TBA



Stephanie Fetterolf
Program Co-Chair



John Myers
Program Co-Chair



Pauline Shou
Newsletter Editor

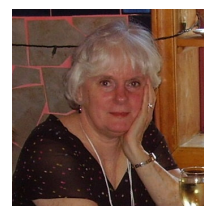
BOOK CLUB

On Saturday, December 2nd, Carolyn Moras kindly drove Susan Seidman, Stephanie Fetterolf, and me to Whitby, to the beautiful home of Sheila Smith-Bennett for a discussion of our book club selection, "Bowling Alone", a study of current issues in civic engagement. Peter Ross met us at Sheila's, as he had kindly agreed to facilitate our discussion. Sheila's father, Vivian Smith, also joined us and we had a very lively group! Sheila was a marvellous hostess and we had an abundance of delicious food and drink.

Peter guided our examination of the book's content with such questions as, "When you read this book, what was one big idea or insight that struck you?" "What insight, or idea, in the book (in your opinion) helps us to understand better the current situation in voluntary organizations?" Peter kept us focussed and helped us use our reading to identify some possible future directions for our chapter of PDK.

We are planning a second book club evening on April 14, 2007. The selection we have chosen is "What Schools Are For", by John Goodlad. We will let you know when we have established venue and time. It is interesting and stimulating to have a forum in which to discuss ideas of ongoing significance. Anyone who is interested is welcome to join us.

Please contact MaryEl Milosh at 416-229-0496, or maryelmilosh@hotmail.com.



MaryEl Milosh
Book Club Coordinator



OUR CHAPTER'S EXECUTIVE TEAM

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Walk Committee: Shak Ahad, Stephanie Fetterolf, Fred Georgopoulos, Joulie Georgopoulos, Susan Seidman, & Carolyn Moras

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



January 2007

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER:
THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO CHAPTER (85)
PHI DELTA KAPPA
www.pdk-ut.ca



CAROLYN MORAS
CHAPTER PRESIDENT

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"The wind blows memories through our hearts", a line in Happy New Year in a Nat King Cole CD, came to mind as I tried to capture the richness of PDK and related events this term. John Goodlad, an educator for 67 years, and an renowned advocate for educational renewal was the opening keynote speaker at PDK's Summit on Public Education in Washington D.C. this fall. He said education surrounds us and that the issues are timeless.

At this time of year, school concerts abound. Attending one as a guest gave time to reflect as well as enjoy. The arts, the curriculum, and literacy were all showcased in the concert. A joy of learning came out clearly through the performance. Curriculum links to social studies were clear in the songs; daily fitness was explained and illustrated through dance. Staff teamwork was evident; superb choreography enhanced the evening. Truly the audience and the participants were surrounded by education.

We need, and have a responsibility, to share the success stories in public education. That was the concluding message from our discussion of the challenges and the treasures in public education on Nov. 2nd. The timelessness of issues was apparent. When we had session two of our public education series, school as the heart of the community came out loud and clear.

While the calendar year is drawing to a close, the PDK year which is July 1st to June 30th, is in full stride. PDK members are often involved in many activities, as well as balancing full professional and personal lives. The area that our chapter covers is very large. Connections with each other are important. This fall we have had an array of types and locations of meetings to provide opportunities to connect. The warmth and pleasure of being able to converse in small groups and get to know other Kappans and guests has been enjoyable. Many memories to blow through the heart have been created.

Happy New Year to all.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Phi Delta Kappa International, University of Toronto Chapter, will be held on Thursday, May 3, 2007 at the Faculty Club, University of Toronto for the following purposes:

- To receive the report of the Treasurer
- To receive the report of the Nominating Committee
- To elect officers and members of the Governing Council for the coming year
- To transact such other business as may properly be brought forth before the meeting

Dated: January 2, 2007

Carolyn Moras
President



Susan Seidman presented Elizabeth Manker with a hostess gift for organizing the three PDK socials in Niagara Falls and for having the group to her home for sherry and shortbread before going to Ballet Jorgen's "Cinderella."



A GTA group carpoled and joined with a Niagara group where dinner conversation included learning about the history of the Niagara concerts.



Stephanie Fetterolf, Susan Seidman, and Dr. Sheryl Freeman celebrate at the Host on November 28.

NIAGARA GET TOGETHERS

The first, on Saturday, November 4, was a wonderful opportunity for meeting, chatting, mingling, and learning about each other's interests and issues over dinner. The next two are on Saturday, March 31 and Friday, May 4. Contact Elizabeth at SIDEAR09@aol.com 905-358-3825 if you would like to join us.

THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX: SOME VIABLE TECHNOLOGY ALTERNATIVES: PART 2

Newer Alternative Browsers such as Mozilla's Firefox, Avant, Opera, Slimbrowser, Maxthon, Crazy Browser and Netscape 7.2 are gaining in popularity and challenging MS Internet Explorer and even Apple's own Safari browser. Each of these offerings provided added features for some, but these are not for everyone. The most common feature set is Tabs, allowing a new level of setting multiple sets of "bookmarks" within the browser window; researchers especially will welcome this addition.



Walt Winchell
Tech Advisor

Google's G-mail started up about 2 years ago and has become a viable alternative e-mail client with some very interesting features, including a Google search engine for the in/out boxes, a very intuitive interface for attachments, drafts and threads – and oh, yes – the storage capability. G-mail now provides approximately > 2.7 GB of storage for free, making it the top e-mail client in this category. Yahoo.ca offers 1 GB and a totally new interface and functionality and most others offer less. G-mail also offers pop-ups to alert you of new mail, a new chat client, and several features that appeal to special interests, including the ability to see a pop-up on your screen when new mail arrives. There is one small catch, however – you cannot presently register for a G-mail account unless you have an invite from a current user. This may change in the future but it is intended to allow a cautioned rate of growth of new users.

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

Celebration@ the Host

Two University of Toronto Chapter Kappans were honoured at an intimate dinner on November 28. Dr. Sheryl Freeman was presented with the Chapter's Doctoral Dissertation Award, for her recent thesis "The Intersection of Policy and Practice: One Stand-Alone Vocational School, The ABC Story." Stephanie Fetterolf, winner of a PDK Gerald Read Scholarship, talked about her observations on her recent PDK Educator-to-Educator trip to China. "The ABC Story spans a forty-year period to illustrate "the yin and the yang", the tensions and contradictions, in the purposes of schooling as one "special school" strives to prepare students for both work and life after high school, notes Dr. Freeman. She spoke of some of the issues involved in trying to develop a composite school.

Hazel Mason, head of the Ontario Middle Level Education Association, remarked on some of the issues of esteem and engagement involved in working at Intermediate and Secondary levels, and some of the gender differences in test scores.

Commenting on ideas on China shared during the evening, PDK Past President Ed Quick commented, "It seems obvious that the Chinese are very proud of their education system. It seems that we are not. It also seems that there is great parental support of the education system in China, where in Canada, that support is sporadic."

Stephanie noted that they had seen Chinese model schools and that PDK had just had a session at a TDSB model school, Nelson Mandela Park School. Session 3 of our Public Education Series is on school leadership at another model school, Firgrove Public School.

FOUNDATION REPORT

Peter Ross, past Chapter president and Outstanding Educator, has received a PDK honour of Olympic proportions! Peter is shown below with the George Reavis medallion, from PDK's Foundation, recognizing cumulative giving of over \$1000.

Peter has a clear philosophy. When he became a Senior member, who pay 1/2 Professional dues, he continued to pay the same amount, but directed half to the Foundation. Now, as an Emeritus member, he directs the entire equivalent of Professional dues to the Foundation. He says, "I continue to get all the benefits of PDK membership, so I feel I should make a contribution."

You will find the Foundation pledge form enclosed with your newsletter. I encourage you to donate. PDK Foundation supports its awards at the International level, as well as scholarly publishing, and international travel scholarships. Our Chapter has recently had three International award winners, (P Shelley Thomas, and Kari Peters), and a Gerald Read Travel Scholarship (Stephanie Fetterolf).

As you may have noticed in the Foundation report sent to you recently, this past year our Chapter qualified for the 20/20 club, which means 20% of our members have donated.

Support for the Foundation can be in any amount: even \$10 dollars "counts" in the Foundation accounting. Some people send back their pledge cards; some people add an amount on when they renew their membership; others simply phone International (1-800-766-1156) and give their credit card number and amount. Please continue to show our chapter's support for Foundation.



Susan Seidman
Foundation

SPELLING BEE

The University of Toronto Chapter will be partnering with Spelling Bee of Canada, working with the Toronto Bathurst Lions to organize their Regional Spelling Bee in Spring 2007. This service initiative helps develop PDK's visibility in the education system.

Spelling Bee of Canada is celebrating its 20th anniversary. Its focus is on participation and the development of literacy skills. Each participant receives a dictionary – and yes, they use Canadian spelling. The participants receive mentoring and coaching sessions, and develop the confidence to stand in front of an audience in a stressful situation.

SBOC also sponsors competitive Bees. You may have seen last year's Ontario Championship Bee on TVO, with special guest Lt.-Gov. James K. Bartleman. The age categories for the Bee are Primary, Junior, and Intermediate students. Older students are invited to serve as coaches and mentors.

If any Kappans would like to volunteer to help, contact Foundation Chair Susan Seidman, sseidman@sympatico.ca



Presentation of the Canadian flag to PDK International at the 2006 Summit on Public Education in Washington

L to R: John Amato - President Elect, Sandra Weith- Assistant Executive Director, Jo Ann Fujioka - President, Carolyn Moras, Susan Seidman, Bill Bushaw - Executive Director

For more information about the summit, visit the PDK International website www.pdkintl.org -> Click Conferences then Summit 2006.

FUTURE EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

D.A. Morrison Middle School is the home of Canada's first and only Future Educators Association Chapter, called "Northern Horizons FEA." Principal Elizabeth Faller and teacher/FEA Chapter Leader Tasia Alexiou are enthusiastic supporters.

So are the 16 Grade 6 students who form the Chapter. They wrote essays to be chosen to join the Chapter. In their short history, they have chosen their name, and started thinking about teaching and education as a career.

Northern Horizons FEA had Valeri Franklin, their student teacher, as their first guest presenter. She showed a Powerpoint presentation on how she became involved with children and teaching. She followed up with questions and answers from the children.

FEA, which is well developed in the States and in some countries overseas, is now sponsored by PDK, which realizes that in order to get the best teachers for schools, we need to make a wide range of students aware of the breadth and benefits of the many careers in education.



Susan Seidman, Tasia Alexiou, Elizabeth Faller and Carolyn Moras sign the Charter for the first Canadian FEA Chapter, "Northern Horizons FEA."



Peter Ross
with his
George
Reavis
Medallion

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Please return your directory information sheet if you have not done so already.