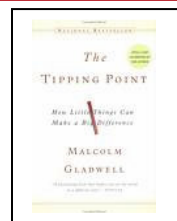




Stephanie Fetterolf and John Myers
Program Co-Chairs



Newsletter Editor
Pauline Shou



PDK Book Club
Please join us for the Sept. 8th meeting to discuss "The Tipping Point" by Malcolm Gladwell. Contact MaryEI at 416-229-0496 for more info.

Program for Fall 2007

| | | | |
|---|-------------------|--|--|
| PDK Book Club "The Tipping Point" | Sat. Sept. 8 | Contact Mary EI-Milosh | 7:00 PM Optional Dinner 5:00 PM |
| Global Education Series Opener: Wine and Cheese with Dr. Zhao | Mon., Oct. 1 | 1 Valhalla Inn Road, Mississauga pdkut.register@gmail.com to register | 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM Cost: \$25 per person |
| Global Education Series: Presentation by Dr. Zhao | Tues., Oct. 2 | Central Commerce Collegiate, 570 Shaw St. Toronto | 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM |
| Niagara Falls Get-Together | Sat. Oct. 13 | Michael's Inn, Niagara Falls Contact Elizabeth Manker | 5:00 PM dinner, concert to follow |
| PDK International Summit on Global Education | Oct. 18 – Oct. 20 | Vancouver BC | |
| Trinity Chamber Ensemble Concert | Sun. Oct. 21 | Church of the Transfiguration, 111 Manor Road East | 7:30 PM |
| U of T Chapter PDK Walk for Education | Sat. Oct. 27 | Assemble at YMCA Walk at Queen's Park | Morning |
| Niagara Falls Get Together | Fri. Nov. 9 | Michael's Inn, Niagara Falls Contact Elizabeth Manker | 7:00 PM Optional Dinner 5:00 PM |
| Global Education Series: Session #2: | End of Nov. | TBA | TBA |

Keep This Date in Mind – Annual General Meeting - Wednesday, April 23, 2008
Remember to register for the Oct. 1st and Oct. 2nd Global Education Series Events! Details on the Insert.

Our Chapter's Executive Team

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Co-Chairs of Prospective Educator & Excellence in Student Teaching Awards: David Keffer & Pauline SHou
Chair of Jackman Award: Ruth Childs
Chair of Doctoral Dissertation Award: Clay Lafleur
Coordinator of Book Club: Mary EI Milosh
Coordinator of Event Reporting: Ed Badovinac
Advisory Board: Lloyd Augustus, Lorna Earl, Mary Hookey, Robert Hookey, Elizabeth Manker, Eleanor Pierre, Peggy Stewart, & Jim Youngson
Member At Large: Linda Massey



Shawn Lepp
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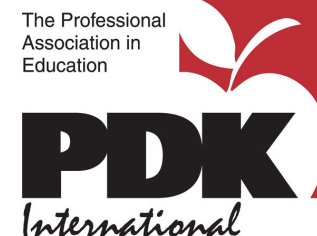
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The Official Newsletter
The University of Toronto Chapter – 85
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President's Message

The University of Toronto Chapter of PDK is now 52 years young and continues to be vibrant and actively building a solid future. Early in July, a large contingent of the Chapter executive attended the 2007 Area Leadership Conference in Peterborough. This conference was an extremely positive experience for everyone and will greatly assist our chapter's development and planning during the coming year.

Two weeks later the executive participated in a very productive summer planning retreat, graciously hosted by Eleanor Pierre at the spacious EJP Communications Learning Centre in Oakville. Chapter leadership, direction and successful operational management are intricately interconnected; the theme of our July planning meeting was "Leadership in a Cooperative Learning Environment."

We will commence our 2007-2008 programme with an eastern region BBQ as we continue to reach out geographically to our membership. We shall continue the concert series in Niagara Falls as opportunities for the more westerly-based members to connect. Consider joining our PDK Book Club on Saturday, September 8th for a stimulating discussion. This fall we shall be launching the programme theme series, "Global Education, Looking Out to Join In." Exemplary chapter events are planned in Toronto with Dr. Yong Zhao of Michigan State University speaking on Global Education – the topic for this year's annual PDK International conference, being held in Vancouver on October 18-20. Please refer to the enclosed brochure, our chapter website: www.pdk-ut.ca or register directly at pdkut.register@gmail.com.

We encourage each Kappan to attend as many events as possible, to invite potential Kappans as guests, and to support the PDK Walk for Education. The Walk at Queen's Park on Saturday, October 27th promotes PDK's advocacy for public education and raises funds for our awards programme. Please refer to the enclosed flyer.

Our 2007-2008 outreach and introduction of our awards programme begins September 5th-6th at OISE/UT with several members of the chapter executive participating at the fall orientation programme. Service initiatives begun last year, the Future Educator's Association (FEA), and hosting a regional Spelling Bee will continue.

While we shall mail printed Newsletters, we will provide this information on our website as well. Our executive will continue to review the possibility of implementing a gradual transition away from mailed information to a partial e-delivery in the foreseeable future.

Please feel free to share your views on this and any other matters of concern as we meet throughout the coming year.

PDK Walk for Education

The third annual PDK Walk for Education is scheduled to take place on Saturday, October 27, 2007. Dozens of PDK members will be sporting a new PDK Walk t-shirt, walking or running 5 laps of the Queen's Park Circle. The Walk for Education is an avowal of PDK's advocacy for public education and the opportunities arising from it. Funds raised goes to support our chapter's Future Educators Association at the elementary level, and scholarship programmes at the secondary and post-secondary level. More information can be found in the enclosed flyer. Step up and meet the challenge;

Please walk and/or donate!

September 2007



Walt Winchell
Chapter President

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Advice for Teachers (both new and experienced)

David Keffer

In all of my (many) years of teaching, the most important aspect has been very close contact with the parents of my students. I usually call parents from the first week of each semester, for good and for trouble. This takes a lot of my time and effort, but I have found that the parents really appreciate the contact. I try to keep in touch with them on a fairly regular basis, and so the parents know exactly how their child is doing in my class. As a result of this effort, I have NEVER had an unpleasant parent contact, either by phone or face-to-face. If there are no surprises, then the parents have nothing to get 'suddenly' upset about. My parent-teacher interviews have always been pleasant, usually with parents just coming in to meet me, and 'put a face to the name.' Phone contacts are also pleasant, even if I am calling to say that their child is failing miserably, since it is only a follow-up to a previous call. This close contact really works, so give it a try ... you'll be very pleased, and will save yourself a lot of grief!



Joint Anniversary Social – PDK and CEC

National Yacht Club, June 7, 2007

Sheila Hambleton and Ouida Wright

According to the Canadian Dictionary of the English Language to celebrate is "to observe an occasion with appropriate ceremony or festivity". That is exactly what happened at the Joint Anniversary Social of the Toronto University Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa and the Council for Exceptional Children – Pioneer Division which was held at the National Yacht Club on Thursday, June 7, 2007. The setting was perfect: blue skies; a long, lazy twilight with even a tall ship passing by; and inside delicious food, warm companionship and such fun!

Following dinner, Carolyn Moras, president of PDK, Pat Humphreys, president of CEC, and John Myers, Program Co-Chair of PDK took turns welcoming the participants and outlining the activities of the evening. Carolyn drew special attention to two participants: Susanna Tang, the recipient of the Henry Jackman Award (more later) and Ouida Wright, who with her husband, Leebert had recently been awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Black Business and Professional Association.

A mouth-watering array of fruit and confectionary graced the dessert table including a chocolate fountain which every one was invited to sample. Following dessert, Jim Youngson, a past president of both CEC and PDK, took over and outlined the entertainment for the evening. This began with "barber shop" presentations by four members of the Scarborough Dukes of Harmony: Ron Brown, Fred Clark, Brian George and Max Woodstra. The group led a singsong accompanied by Marg Deeth, pianist of the Toronto Chorister Choir. The PDK Executive regaled the assemblage with greetings sung to the tune of "As Time Goes By"!

Then it was time for matching wits with a rebus puzzle followed by more sing along.

Susanna Tang was formally given the Henry Jackman Award which goes annually to a student in a Faculty of Education in Ontario. There had been seven "strong applications" but Susanna received the \$500.00 prize and a one-year membership in PDK for her essay titled, "Using Assessment to Help My Students Succeed" to enthusiastic congratulations from the gathering!

Susan Seidman reported on the Spelling Bee which PDK has sponsored during the winter and awarded certificates to those who had helped to organize the segments for Primary, Junior and Intermediate students. The evening ended with draws for prizes including a cedar chest and a stained glass lamp.

Everyone agreed that this had been a most enjoyable evening and an occasion not to have been missed.

Whitby BBQ, August 20, 2007

David Keffer and Susan Seidman

On a wonderful cool evening, the Whitby BBQ gave the opportunity for several PDK award winners and committee members to get to know each other. The evening featured food, drink, conversation, lovely setting, humorous anecdotes, problem-solving, and the exchange of favourite book titles, among other things. Participants, pictured below, (Carolyn Moras, David Keffer, Susan Seidman, Susanna Tang, Pauline Shou and Zora Keffer) all agreed that it was a wonderful evening that should be repeated.



Above: Barber Shop presentations by the Scarborough Dukes of Harmony.



Above: The Executive sing to the tune of "As Time Goes By".



Above: Susanna Tang (middle) receives her Henry Jackman Award.

Beyond the Chapter

John Stewart, Region Hd Co-CML

On July 7, 2007, 15 chapter leaders from three (London, Toronto, and Montreal) of Region Hd's four chapters met in Peterborough with PDK International President Dr. John Amato and Region H Representative Frank Nappi for chapter leadership training. This was the first chapter leadership training session for Region Hd officers.

For the last two years Region Hd chapter officers strongly supported the Region H Area Leadership Conferences in Albany, New York. While these two events did help us develop new contacts with U.S. Kappans, we did not establish any sense of community among the Canadian chapters in Region H.

All participants left the conference with a solid understanding of the big picture for PDK and for Region H at this time, of the up-coming significant events and of their particular roles in chapter leadership. The Region Hd chapter leaders came away from the conference with a much stronger sense of community among themselves. They know each other much better, they know their organization much better and they know how to undertake their chapter leadership roles. There is much detailed planning and execution left to be done, but a solid foundation is already in place for a successful and satisfying 2007 - 2008 chapter year.

The 2007 Region Hd ALC was deemed a success and a date and location selected for next year's conference, Saturday, July 12 at the Best Western Otonabee Inn in Peterborough, Ontario. The 2008 event will be called the Region Hd Chapter Leadership Conference or CLC. An invitation has been extended to all the CMLs in Region H and to Region I Representative, Bernadine Moldoch, to offer this event to their chapter leaders.



Above: Chapter leaders from London, Toronto and Montreal along with President Dr. John Amato (leftmost) and Region H Representative Frank Nappi (rightmost male) at Otonabee Inn Annual Leadership Conference.

My "Educator to Educator" Trip to China

Stephanie Fetterolf

In October of 2006, I was fortunate enough to participate in PDK International's "Educator to Educator" travel program. Along with 26 other educators I spent 10 days learning about China's education system and culture. We were exposed to the education system through visits to local schools in Beijing, Xi'an and Shanghai. Our stays in each of the cities were also filled with cultural activities such as climbing the Great Wall of China, visiting the extensive grounds of the Forbidden City and walking in Tiananmen Square. Together, we also attended traditional Chinese theatre, watched acrobats and ate exotic lavish meals.

In the Chinese education system, there is a wider distribution of responsibility for learning. Teachers, families and students accept long school hours as well as after school and weekend classes as part of the learning process. These extra classes are seen as tools to help students pass the required tests administered at the end of nine years of compulsory education. All stakeholders are eager to have students succeed and move forward in their education.

Most classes contain 30 to 50 students, with "Master teachers" having the larger classes. There is a strong focus on math, English, Chinese culture, Chinese politics, Chinese history and, of course, the Chinese language. Often it is the teachers who move from class to class while the students remain in the classroom.

Teachers work together in subject teams. Each team has an office space where they can plan and share best teaching methodologies. It is also an opportunity for teacher training and mentoring. Time for these dialogues is generated by allotting a teaching workload of only 2-3 classes a day, freeing the teachers to have exchanges during the school day. This is the case at both the elementary level and secondary levels.

Interestingly, China's well-known one child policy has had noteworthy implications for schools. Classes have a high percentage of males, which has had an impact on curriculum, as well as, methods and materials. Educators have found that these only children tend to be focused on themselves and are limited in their ability to interact with other children. As a result, character education has become part of the curriculum.

While we in Canada work to close the "achievement gap", the Chinese education system is working to close the "creativity gap". They see the value creativity will hold in the 21st century and look to the West for examples. This shows itself, in the eagerness of Chinese educators to share the best of the East and to learn from the West.

Dr. Zhao, a professor at Michigan State University, was instrumental in setting up our visits to schools, as well as, meetings with officials from the China Education Association for International Exchange, the National Centre for Educational Technology, and the Provincial Centre for Educational Technology. He will be in Toronto on October 1st and 2nd giving presentations on education in a globalized world. He is a great speaker who has many thought provoking ideas about the future of education. A brochure with registration information has been included with this newsletter.

We hope to see you there!

Right: Stephanie Fetterolf poses with students during her trip to China.



PDK International's Upcoming Trips

Italy – November 3 – 10, 2007; New Zealand – April 11 – 21, 2008