

PROGRAM FOR SPRING 2008 AND CHAPTER AWARD DUE DATES

Niagara Falls Get Together	Sat., Mar. 29	Michael's Inn, Niagara Falls - Contact Elizabeth Manker 905-358-3825, SIDECAR09@aol.com	5:00 PM Dinner 8:00 PM Concert
Jackman Award Application Due	Fri., April 18	See www.pdk-ut.ca or contact Ruth Childs rchilds@oise.utoronto.ca	Application Deadline
Annual General Meeting, Outstanding Educator Presentation and Dinner	Wed., April 23	Faculty Club, University of Toronto 41 Willcocks Street (east of Spadina, north of College, south of Bloor). See Flyer Enclosed.	6:00 PM Social 7:00 PM Dinner
Niagara Falls Get Together	Sat., April 26	Michael's Inn, Niagara Falls - Contact Elizabeth Manker 905-358-3825, SIDECAR09@aol.com	5:00 PM Dinner 8:00 PM Concert
Book Club : "The World is Flat"	Sat., May 3	Contact Mary El Milosh 416-229-0496, maryelmilosh@hotmail.com	5:00 PM Dinner 7:00 PM Book Club
Trinity Chamber Ensemble Concert	Sun. May 4	Church of the Transfiguration, 111 Manor Road East	7:30 PM
PDK Conversation Evening	Fri., May 9	Chez Jaisarees, 22 Corner Ridge Road, Auorara See Flyer Enclosed – Contact sseidman@sympatico.ca	5:30 PM Dinner 7:00 PM Conversation
Graduate Award Application Due	Sat., May 10	Download forms from www.pdkintl.org/scholarships and sent to Susan Seidman at sseidman@sympatico.ca	Application Deadline
Spring Social	Thurs., May 29	Donalda Golf and Country Club, 12 Bushbury Drive. Don Mills	7:00 PM
Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award App. Due	Fri., Aug. 15	Contact Clay Lafleur - claymar@rogers.com	Application Deadline
Walk For Education	Sat., Sept. 20	Register and Sign in at OISE Walk at Queen's Park	9:00 AM Registration

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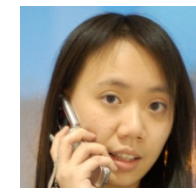
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The Professional Association in Education

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO CHAPTER OF PDK (85)
www.pdk-ut.ca

March 2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

As you note within the newsletter, our PDK International Board of Directors has adopted a new vision statement: **PDK - The experts in cultivating great educators for tomorrow and ensuring quality education for today.**

Nonetheless, the goals and objectives of our organization remain the same. **Service:** PDK will cultivate and support the next generation of educators. **Leadership:** PDK will recognize and celebrate the outstanding contributions of PDK members and chapters. **Research:** PDK will share and distribute accurate knowledge and research with the local community and state-level policymakers.

We at the U of T CHAPTER look forward to the culmination of our year as we celebrate our Outstanding Educator for 2008 and our long-time members as well as the next generation of educators at our Annual General Meeting and initiation on April 23rd – see flyer. Please consider inviting a colleague this year.

Soon several of our members will be in New York at the annual AERA meeting during the week of March 24th, giving presentations and participating in various ways. These include Bev Freedman, Clay Lafleur, and Mary Hookey, while our Chapter's Doctoral Dissertation co-winner Kathleen Vaughan will be honoured for her work.

Recently we have revised our chapter website - www.pdk-ut.ca. We invite you to visit and to forward your comments and suggestions directly to my attention. We have discussed contacting our membership directly by e-mail and will increasingly be doing this over the next few months. If you do not wish to participate in this option, please let me know - or if you wish this information to be forwarded on to an e-mail address other than the one currently listed in our files, please advise as well.

Our chapter executive committee is continuously developing new program concepts, new relationships and of course working to attract new members. We would invite your collaboration in these opportunities as well. If you would like to attend one of our executive meetings, or volunteer to help in some manner, please advise us. The contact information for our Chapter Executive is listed on the reverse side of the newsletter.

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 Wednesday, April 23rd, 2008 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

Originally Dated: January 7, 2007 Walter Winchell, President

A flyer for the AGM is enclosed, please complete and return the tear-off portion immediately.



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RESEARCH & RECOGNITION



BEV'S FINDINGS

I am Dr. Bev Freedman, the research liaison for U of T PDK chapter. I am a retired superintendent who spent time at faculties and the Ministry, now doing liaison and research work in school improvement and instructional leadership. I have been busy travelling across the province for the last few months, working with districts and spending time in schools. I have been from Kenora to Windsor and Thunder Bay to Hanover and Ottawa and points in between. School improvement and raising student achievement are common threads everywhere I go.

I have included some information about learning for your consideration. I am off to Israel and will have a chance to compare school systems and discover what is important and will report back for the next newsletter. At the end of March I have a paper to present at the American Education Research Association, www.aera.net. Their conference, generally attended by 12 000 educators from all across the globe, and is in New York the last week of March. Check it out.

PISA 2006 Results

Have you seen or heard about the results of PISA or the Programme for International Student Assessment? This is a good news item. PISA is an international assessment held for member states under the auspices of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). This research program is designed to assess, on a regular basis, the achievement of 15-year-olds in reading, mathematical and scientific literacy through a common international test. The link below contains information about the results from the PISA 2006 assessment of student performance in science, reading and mathematics at the provincial level, and compares the achievement of Canadian students to that of students internationally. We did well as a nation, coming in third behind Finland and Hong-Kong. And despite Canada's reading performance remaining strong, improvements in reading achievements by Hong-Kong and Finland led to them outperforming Canada in this domain for the first time since PISA was implemented. As in other countries, immigrant status, parental education and socio-economic background were all related to Canadian students' PISA scores, but Canada surpassed other OECD countries in minimizing the inequality in achievement associated with these factors.

<http://www.pisa.oecd.org/dataoecd/15/13/39725224.pdf>

'Google Generation' is a Myth, According to New Research

Below is a link to an interesting report, commissioned by the Joint Information Systems Committee and the British Library. It offers some evidence that the computer generation doesn't have the analytical skills they need. It also shows research-behaviour traits that are commonly associated with younger users – impatience in search and navigation, and zero tolerance for any delay in satisfying their information needs. This has implication for today's teaching and lessons about what is needed for student engagement. [Information Behaviour of the Researcher of the Future](http://www.mckinsey.com/client/service/socialsector/resources/pdf/Worlds_School_Systems_Final.pdf)

Curious about high-performing school systems and why they come out on top? – this a very fine overview of some key parameters for effective school systems in an international investigation of what policies work...

http://www.mckinsey.com/client/service/socialsector/resources/pdf/Worlds_School_Systems_Final.pdf

Also check out two neat web sites. One from the Mid-continent in Research in Education & Learning www.mcrcel.org run by Robert Marzano. Another contains monthly summaries of interesting research - from the [Wisconsin Center for Education Research](http://www.wisc.edu), at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, www.wisc.edu.

DOCTORAL WINNERS UPDATE

In November, we honoured Kathleen Vaughan and Barnabus Emenogu as recipients of our chapter's Doctoral Dissertation Award. Since then, both have had further prestigious recognition.



Kathleen Vaughan will be receiving two awards from the American Educational Research Association at the AERA annual meeting in New York March 24th to 28. She has won the 2008 Outstanding Dissertation Award from the Arts Based Educational Research Special Interest Group and the 2008 Graduate Paper Award from the Critical Issues in Curriculum and Cultural Studies Special Interest Group.



Barnabus Emenogu earned an Honourable Mention in the PDK International Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award program, having finished among the top three in the international competition. An announcement will be published in the June 2008 Kappan.

EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT TEACHING AWARD

U of T Chapter's Excellence in Student Teaching award process was carried out in early February. Winners this year, from a strong field, were Lianne Tan and Susan Marar, both from OISE. We will officially welcome them as initiates at the Annual General Meeting - see their bios separately. The high-school level Prospective Educator award was not given this year.

This year's committee consisted of Susan Seidman, Foundation Chair, and Pauline Shou and Kari Peters. It should be noted that Pauline and Kari were winners of the Excellence in Student Teaching Award, 2005 and 2006 respectively, at both the Chapter and International levels.

Funding for the Chapter-level award is generated through our major fund-raising event, the annual Walk for Education, as well as the Patrons at the AGM and Doctoral Dissertation Dinner, and donations given at the Trinity Chamber Ensemble concerts.

Funding for the International-level award is generated through Kappans' donations to the Educational Foundation. We thank all Chapter members and friends of the Chapter who have supported these processes and awards.

OTHER NEWS

BEYOND THE CHAPTER – FEB. 08

On a weekend in January 2008, Chapter Member Liaisons and Regional Representatives of PDK from around the world descended on Bloomington, Indiana for an intense period of sharing/working/ talking about PDK and some of the initiatives taking place.

President John Amato, Past President Jo Ann Fujioka and President Elect Sandee Crowther welcomed Kappans from Canada, the US, Japan, and Australia. Bill Bushaw, Executive Director of PDK International, and Jeanne Storm, Associate Executive Director, spoke of many changes coming to PDK.

One change is the PDK Vision Statement: "PDK: The experts in cultivating great educators for tomorrow and ensuring high-quality education for today." The vision statement met with strong approval, and the participants spent time working through some of the implications for the organization.

Lynn Lewis, PDK's Director of Development for the Educational Foundation, presented information about the scholarships and awards that drive so much of PDK's work. Each CML received a package of information, which is also available online. Susan Seidman, from Region Hd, showed samples of artifacts that the U of T chapter uses.

Among the new actions that are in place or are being contemplated include:
- a new computer system for Int'l, which has amalgamated separate databases into one seamless system. It will now make many things easier at the International level – e.g., you will be able to find out what other people from other Chapters are signed up to attend a Summit. It should prove easier to correct and update Membership information.

- Under discussion is a dedicated PDK social networking site, which would allow Kappans to post news and have chats with Kappans across the world.

- Increased support for Emerging Leaders program, esp. in supporting their active involvement in PDK

The meeting set the stage for on-going work, and built enthusiasm and knowledge to take back to share with Chapters.

GLOBAL EDUCATION - LOOKING OUT TO JOIN IN ~ JOHN MYERS

The series has been interesting and valuable with the importance of looking at the big picture of education as vital for educating future citizens. Challenges and opportunities abound. If you look at earlier reports you get a sense of the complexity and importance of it all.

The third and final session was held at the Resource and Leadership Training Centre of the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center (FSWC) for Holocaust Studies. The Center <http://www.fswc.ca/> has many programs for educators on issues around diversity, holocaust, genocide, and anti-racist education. Check them out!

PDK's U of T chapter collaborated with the Center to co-host this last event in the series on a horrible wintry evening. Nevertheless, the brave souls who attended learned about the center and its programs as a frame for the evening. The first speakers in the session were Dr. Mark Evans OISE and Doctoral Candidate Nadya Weber who presented a wealth of ideas and information in "Educating for global citizenship: Emerging understandings and practices". We learned about efforts in this area from across Canada and beyond.

Michael Etedgui Educational Consultant for FSWC made us think with his "Global hatred on the Internet: Implications for the classroom". This work is based on the Center's annual report: Digital Terrorism and Hate and documented how extremist groups use the Internet to recruit youngsters to their organizations. We only got a taste of the challenges Michael presented. This work on the challenges of using the internet and Michael are both available for more detailed work with teachers through the Center.

This work also serves as a lead-in to PDK's research series for 2008-2009: The Promise and Peril of New Technologies in the Classroom.

See you at the 2008-2009 series. You will not want to miss it!



Global Education 3 Presenters: Dr. Mark Evans, Nadya Weber and Michael Etedgui



Principals Kim Woods and Nancy Nightingale chatting with Susan Seidman



Left: Billie Spellman, Director of Chapter Relations for PDK Int'l, seen here receiving a Canadian flag from Susan Seidman.

Above: PDK members in Bloomington at CML meetings