



Kristin Hopper

Kristin's Journey

After five long years in university and countless hours practice teaching, I was beyond eager to get my own classroom. Unfortunately, the job market was not so ready to give me one. After waiting out the summer and applying to all last minute postings, my luck did not change.

Through soul searching and a reaffirmation that teaching was indeed my vocation, I decided to look outside of the traditional. For the next year I worked at an adult educational facility that focused on retraining injured workers as a teacher. I expanded my skills in terms of assessment, differentiated delivery, and planning.

I was then presented with the opportunity to become the centre manager. During my two years as manager, I learned the business side of private education, as well as how to do intake assessments, curriculum development, and teacher reviews. This was a highly enriching experience that expanded my skills significantly. As I became slightly complacent within the position I decided to look elsewhere again.

The hiring climate for traditional classroom has remained unchanged in the 3 years since I graduated from OISE. This caused me to truly examine my beliefs and where I wanted to go. My decision came to an internal evaluation of two frequently synonymous words--teacher and educator. In my mind, I am an educator. I don't need a traditional classroom or traditional academic material. All I require are minds willing and looking to learn something.

From my previous experiences I know that I enjoy teaching to all ages. After some outside of the box thinking, I have decided to give the corporate world a try. I researched opportunities and company profiles for months and applied to many positions. I have taken a position with the TTC as an operator and plan to apply to their training department as soon as I am eligible. It will require 1-2 years of sacrifice; however, the long run will be worth it. The company has one of the largest training departments in Canada and develops their own material. My hope is to find a place here where my skills can be used and developed further.



2010 ChalkWalk Chair



2009-11 Spelling Bee
Co-President

Look closely and you will see a heavy black brace on her left leg. Kristin was awaiting major knee surgery and unable to walk without the brace. Gritty determination to be a true leader -Kristin strapped the brace on and led ChalkWalk.



Recognized by U of T
Chapter as an
Emergent Leader

Bookended by PDK International
Board Member JoAnn Masterson
and Susan Seidman, Area
Director for Eastern Canada,
Chapter Emergent Leaders of
2010: Reneta Racheva, Susanna
Tang, Pauline Quan, and Kristen.

Proclamation in Honor of
Susan Seidman



In celebration of her exceptional service to the students and educators of the Toronto District School Board — Canada's largest school district — and the province of Ontario, and in recognition of her passion, commitment, and dedication to the University of Toronto Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa and Phi Delta Kappa International, the Phi Delta Kappa International Board of Directors presents this proclamation in honor of our Kappan colleague and friend, Susan Seidman.

Whereas, Susan Seidman is a dedicated 13-year member of PDK International and a lifelong educator, teacher, principal and leader, and a passionate advocate for students, parents, and other educators, and

Whereas, Susan has served with distinction as an officer in critical PDK International chapter positions such as membership, the Chalk Walk, and supporting teachers new to the profession, and

Whereas, Susan has served as an exemplary president of the University of Toronto Chapter of PDK International and has been awarded the Service Key for meritorious service and outstanding leadership, and

Whereas, Susan has worked tirelessly and provided inspirational leadership and mentorship as a PDK International chapter member liaison and an area director for Southern Canada, and

Whereas, Susan, through her work and dedication, exemplifies the key tenets of PDK International: service, leadership, and research,

Now, therefore, with the association's sincere gratitude and best wishes, we hereby present this proclamation honoring the unparalleled achievements of

Susan Seidman

In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and caused to be affixed the seal of Phi Delta Kappa International on this 11th day of August 2011.


Kathleen Anderson, International President
Phi Delta Kappa International


William J. Bushaw, Executive Director
Phi Delta Kappa International

HONOURING OUR MEMBERS – SUSAN SEIDMAN



Susan Seidman

The breadth of Susan's involvement is a model of promoting PDK and public education. As well, she strives to develop PDK partnerships.



The Kappan Fascinators!

L to R: JoAnn Masterson, Susan, Marilyn Hahn, and Elizabeth Manker model at a Canadian Scholarship Fundraiser, May 2011.



Kappans Nourish Children!

Ned McKeown has been a large part of the Toronto Equal Opportunity Fund to raise money for school nutrition programs. Susan organizes a Kappan table for each event. Stephanie Fetterolf, wearing a jacket from her PDK Travel trip to China, is another Kappan supporter.



A Lioness who can Spell!

Our service activity, Spelling Bees, reflects a partnership with Eglinton Square, Spelling Bee of Canada, and the Toronto Bathurst Lions. Susan is an active Lion member.



Walk the Talk!

By participating in PDK Walks in Chicago, Washington and Vancouver as well as our local walks, Susan highlights the importance of ChalkWalk. In Chicago: Joel Weinberg, Jo Ann Fujioka, Susan, and Carolyn Moras.



Two Sages! Ed Quick and Susan

The Chapter Past Presidents have an annual luncheon. Susan initiated a SAGES newsletter to capture their insights, and perspective and support of ChalkWalk.



Forward Thinkers!

L to R: JoAnn Masterson, Niagara Falls Mayor Ted Salci (2010) and Susan at one of three Area Leadership and Chapter Planning Conferences Susan organized.



Tea Time, Post Conference

Lis Horley McLeod, Jim Youngson, Susan After each conference, tea in the beautiful gardens of Christ Church in Niagara Falls was greatly enjoyed.



Susan and Elizabeth

Elizabeth Manker organized tea, tours, and dinner to create wonderful Post Conference Kappan fun. Elizabeth works to provide many opportunities for Kappans outside Toronto.

HONOURING OUR MEMBERS



Kelly Kim

Teaching Outside the Box

When I made my decision to become a teacher, I envisioned a traditional classroom setting. I had it all mapped out with the lesson planning, teaching, assessing and evaluating, coaching, etc. I never thought of the different opportunities that were available outside the classroom until I did my internship at EduTravel. EduTravel is a student tour operating company that offers curriculum trips and credit programs that allow students to learn through experiential opportunities. EduTravel encompassed two of my life's passions: education and travelling.

After my internship, I was offered a full time position as operations manager as well as the opportunity to guide students during their trip.

At EduTravel, just like in teaching, no two days are the same. I have the opportunity to try on different hats. One day I can be creating trips and linking them with the curriculum and the next day I can be running a trip.

The roles that I have as operations manager and tour guide are very similar to being a classroom teacher. When creating trips, I choose relevant attractions that will be of interest to the students and that are linked with the curriculum, figure out ways to hook students into my stories, and teach students through the process of making meaning through direct experiences.

The environment and system may be different, but the objective is still the same. By creating a positive and inclusive learning environment, I am able to offer students an enriched learning experience that they will remember for the rest of their lives.

A Global Educator - Simone Scantlebury



L to R: Michelle Bailey, Simone Scantlebury, Nancy Nightingale, Moveta Nanton, Marilyn Hahn, Carolyn Moras.

Catching up with Kappan Friends

Like Kelly, Simone loves travelling, teaching, and learning. Simone mapped out a plan to combine both. Suitcase and teaching certificate in hand, Simone flew off. Simone has taught at the secondary level in Barbados and English as a Second language in Japan. For the past four years Simone has been teaching secondary school in Mexico City. Along the way, Simone has learned Spanish and is now studying Cantonese.

On route to Hong Kong, where Simone will be teaching for the Hong Kong School Board and studying for her Masters of Ed, Simone stopped in Toronto in August to meet up with friends and fellow Kappans. Conversation flowed about student engagement and teaching systems abroad, including Nancy's PDK Travel trip to Hong Kong and Michelle's and Moveta's understanding of education in Jamaica.

Simone was initiated at our 2007 AGM. While a student at OISE, Simone was Communications Director for the Toronto East Spelling Bee. We look forward to updates from Simone about her experiences.