

Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of University of Toronto Chapter, Phi Delta Kappa International, will be held on **Thursday April 23, 2009 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 1, 2009.
Walter Winchell, President.

**Honour Chris Spence,
new director of the
TDSB.**

**Members:
Come to the AGM and
get your directory.**

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Research and Recognition – Bev's Findings



Re-energize your minds! It's still winter, and I know the cold, snow and dark is getting to us all. Yes it is Canada. Looking for a book to read? The focus of *Transparency* (Bennis, Leman and O'Toole, 2008 published Jossey-Bass) is on how leaders can cultivate a climate of candour and trust. It is constructed of interconnected essays. The message is forward-thinking, examining issues of accountability and the essays reference recent political, health and economic crises. Schools

and school systems exist in this accountable environment. The authors argue that "knowledge is still power. But as knowledge is more widely shared so is the power it generates ...its collegial collaboration enhances transparency". There is a new study out that measured the effectiveness of professional learning entitled, *Professional Learning: A Status Report on Teacher Development in the United States and Abroad*. It was authored by Linda Darling-Hammond and a team of researchers. Not surprisingly most teacher professional learning is short (one or two days) and not embedded, sustained and continuous. Fullan talks about accountability and support, and teacher professional learning falls into the capacity-building. The successful implementation of effective school improvement strategies require sustained and focussed professional learning.

The December/January/2009 issue of the Learning System 'District-level professional learning builds a framework of support' offers a system-level perspective. Check out January 2009's *Phi Delta Kappan* – it focussed on diversity - "The Color of Learning."

The Review of Educational Research, volume 78 Number #4, December 2008 is another source of some excellent articles. There is one on "Sources of Self-Efficacy" and several on the importance of engaging parents in their children's learning and some of the difficulties that can arise.

Interested in how to improve mathematics/numeracy literacy? *Educational Researcher* volume 37 Number 9 has a special issue on **Foundations for Success: The Final Report of the National Mathematics Advisory Council**. It's worth reading. Also worth looking at is *School Leadership for Systemic Improvement in England*. It's an analysis of a larger OECD study exploring school leadership policy issues. Specifically it examines two schools whose students' achievement results increase dramatically. *Education Week* has published 'Quality Counts: Portrait of a Population'. This is a detailed study of English-language learners in the USA and strategies that work to assist in improving their educational outcomes.

Some interesting web sites from USA's Department of Education;
What Works Clearing House -list of research to inform instruction:

<http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/>

Doing What Works: <http://dww.ed.gov/index.cfm>

Thinking About Differentiation and Individualization? You may want to consider Schools

Attuned: <http://www.alkindsofminds.org/activities.aspx>

Some Canadian Web Sites

From Alberta additional resources to support differentiated instruction

<http://www.ualberta.ca/~jpdasddc/incl/difinst.htm>

Layered Instruction –scaffolding to move up the taxonomy –some are commercial and some are free resources from Dr. K Nunley: <http://www.help4teachers.com/>

Teaching Tolerance – section on bias free writing- to encourage student writing for change.

This can also support Doug Reeve's endorsement of daily, non-fiction writing.

<http://www.tolerance.org/teach/activities>

This site features a variety of interesting video clips about the interface of new technologies and current education. They provoke conversations explored in Research Session #3 on March 5. If you are considering the next program in this year's research series, this can begin the conversation. www.futureofeducation.com/video/a-portal-to0media-literacy
By Dr. Bev Freedman

MEMBERSHIP CONNECTIONS

Encouraging World-Wide Education: Friday, October 17, 2008

By Ed & Jocelyn Badovinac



Ed and I were honoured to be invited personally to this great event by Craig and Marc Keilburger. To be part of a crowd in excess of 8000, mostly teenagers, at the Ricoh Centre was an amazing experience – and we thought classroom energy was powerful! The response to Mia Farrow, Nate Berkus, Jessi Cruikshank, Daniela Chaisson, Ben Mulroney, etc, not to mention Craig and Marc themselves, was amazingly enthusiastic but the crowd remained controlled and well-behaved, in spite of having no time for personal breaks. The event was broadcast from coast to coast this year with many schools reporting in. Media coverage was excellent and The Toronto Star had an eight-page section on Thursday, the day before, on the up-coming event.

The difference each person can make was stressed over and over. When Nate Berkus described the moment which changed his life forever as he stood in his underwear on a ridge in Sri Lanka having survived the Tsunami, watching destruction and death around him, there was silence. A man from Sri Lanka, desperate to find his family, turned to Nate, took the shirt off his back (literally) and gave it to him. Nate said that it is in the human heart to be compassionate. Then Spencer West swung onto stage and joked about how he had lost his legs. He had been bullied at school very badly so he decided to become a cheer leader – and demonstrated his skill. Of course, when he was with Free the Children in Kenya, people stared at him and he smiled back. Finally one girl came to him and said that they had not realized that this sort of thing happened to white people, too. Farley Flex and Ben Mulroney spoke about simple needs like clean water and a pencil and paper which are such important gifts for children in so much of the world, stressing that being an agent of change is a life style. Michel Chikwanine, whose terrible story of his life as a child soldier shocked us all, found the sympathy of the crowd was amazing and incredible. Both Justin Trudeau and John Turner encouraged the crowd to participate in politics. Dalton McGuinty said, “We need you.” to the young people. Sarah McLachlan and Canadian Idol winner, Theo Tams sang, as did the Canadian Tenors. Throughout, the response of the crowd was sensitive, enthusiastic and the cheers were thunderous.

Both Ed and I felt awe and deep pride in the tremendous achievement of these extraordinary brothers, Craig and Marc, the miracle workers, who have initiated such a force for good among the young people of the world. At the reception, the adulation of the young ones for these good role models was heart-warming to see.

Free the Children has completed over 500 schools in needy countries and the challenge, at \$3,500.00 per school, is to complete 100 this year. The first rally, held last year, led to enough money being raised to build 50 schools. Next year, the event will be held at the Air Canada Centre and hopefully 14,000 people will attend. Awesome!

Toronto Equal Opportunity Fund Lunar New Year Dinner

By Susan Seidman

Kappans attended the annual Lunar New Year dinner raising funds for the Toronto Educational Opportunity Fund, which supports breakfast programs.

At the PDK table were Susan Seidman, Marilyn Hahn, Lis Horley McLeod, Pauline Quan, Kari Peters (with husband Nick Boldt) and Zenobia Omarali (with husband Nabil).

Discussion flowed about the cultural events, the wonderful food – and aspects of the upcoming PDK Awards committee meeting.

Other Kappans at other tables include Toronto District School Board Director Gerry Connelly, former Chapter President Ned McKeown, and Don Hambleton.

Connections were refreshed with Vicky Branko, now Supervising Principal for Model Schools for the TDSB, former Superintendent Verna Lister, TDSB Vice Chair Chris Bolton, Parenting Centre leaders Ruth Sischy and JoAnne Davis, and City Councillor Paula Fletcher.



L to R: Marilyn Hahn, Lis Horley-McLeod, Susan Seidman, Pauline Quan, Kari Peters, Nick Boldt, Zenobia and Nabil Omarali.

Be A Host

Here are our happy stuffers getting out the January newsletter at Sheila and Don Hambleton's home. It's the most PDK fun that we've had this year! Please come out and join our Stuffer Lovers club. Who thought that envelopes and stamps could be this pleasurable? By Marilyn Hahn



L to R: (Susan Seidman, Shelagh Hambleton, Dr. Don Hambleton, Marilyn Hahn)
Photo by Carolyn Moras

Beyond the Chapter

By Susan Seidman
Chapter Member Liaison

Many valuable aspects of PDK reside in the personal and professional connections, and the experiences between members of a given Chapter. A great strength of the organization is the variety of Chapters, each with its own approach to local educational needs. A Kappan can find a colleague in many universities, towns and countries, and can share experiences and practices with Kappans all over the world.

PDK International is re-organizing how it co-ordinates and supports its chapters. The intent is that Chapters be supported by "Area Directors" who will focus on relationship building with the Chapters, and enhance visibility for PDK in the educational and broader community. This is part of the role of the current Chapter/Member Liaison.

The position of Regional Representative, who co-ordinates CML's is being replaced with Field Representatives, who will take on some of the compliance aspects of the CML's role, such as ensuring that Chapters file Executive lists and activity reports. Field Representative applications will be available in January 2010.

Members of the International Board will continue to be elected, taking office in June 2010.



For an easy way to renew membership or make a Foundation donation, call PDK International toll free at 1.800.766.1156

PDK and Service

One of the three ideals of PDK is Service, represented by the flaming torch. Since January several Kappans have been involved in organizing and coaching the Toronto East Region Spelling Bee. This entails helping the young spellers (Primary, Junior, Intermediate) gain a greater insight into the language we use daily, plus become familiar with some vocabulary of a more esoteric nature.

It is a joy to see the enthusiastic participation and dedication of these young people who add another hour to their already long school day every Wednesday.

As it states in PDK's Initiation ceremony, Service is built on a "willingness to assist others" and leaves a "lasting satisfaction." For us Kappans it is rewarding to be able to "serve" in this enabling activity. (By Irene Manahan)



Kappan Irene Manahan coaching in Toronto East.



Kappan Kristin Hopper lead the coaching for the Oshawa/Whitby (Durham Region) Bee.

The Oshawa/Whitby (Durham Region) Spelling Bee has provided a unique opportunity to work with a very diverse group of children. Their dedication, enthusiasm and intelligence have made this a truly enjoyable experience. Watching the growth over the past few weeks has been a reward all on its own. (By Kristin Hopper)

Be part of this rewarding service to young people. Contact Susan Seidman, sseid@mansympatico.ca, 416.656.6929.

The Future of Education

Meet the 2009 U of T Chapter Prospective Educator, Hamza Hamid, and the 2009 U of T Chapter Excellence in Student Teaching Winner, Reneta Racheva at our AGM (April 23, 2009).



Prospective Educator, Hamza Hamid, with Kappan Zenobia Omarali



Winner Reneta Racheva

Help us celebrate award winners, initiates, and longevity honorees at the AGM (Thursday April 23, 2009). You can recognize them by their corsages.

Our Chapter's Executive Team
 Get a full listing and connect via our website www.pdk-ut.ca
 President's Message



CHAPTER PRESIDENT
Walt Winchell

On Thursday, April 23rd at our Annual General Meeting, help us to honour both our profession and PDK. We shall be awarding our Outstanding Educator of the Year, Dr. Chris Spence, Director of the Hamilton-Wentworth Board, along with the next generation of educators and our distinguished long-term members of the University of Toronto Chapter. Dr. Spence is the Director of the Toronto District School Board and the chapter will be awarding two students who are beginning their education careers by presenting the Excellence in Student Teaching Award to Reneta Racheva of OISE | UT, and the Prospective Educator Award to Hamza Hamid of SATEC @ W.A. Porter Collegiate Institute. The flyer for the AGM is included within the newsletter.

As we look forward to next year's series we will transition toward an increasing awareness of the social and emotional issues and implementations within our changing society, our communities, our classrooms and beyond. Please review our chapter website for further program information: www.pdk-ut.ca

Walt Winchell
 President, Chapter 85

You Can Make a Difference!

Yes you can! Give your input at the Area Leadership Conference (ALC) on Sat. July 11th in Niagara Falls. Save this date. Details to follow.



Program Co-Chairs

John Myers and
 Susanna Tang



Newsletter Editor
 Shak Ahad

PROGRAM (FOR FULL LISTING OF 2008-09 PROGRAM /AWARD DATES, VISIT WWW.PDK-UT.CA) NOTE: THE PROMISE AND PERIL OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN THE CLASSROOM IS A SERIES OF THREE RESEARCH SESSIONS. EACH CAN STAND ALONE; ATTENDEES OF ALL THREE RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE AT THE THIRD. QUESTIONS: SUSANNA.TANG@UTORONTO.CA 416-219-2883 OR JOHN MYERS JMYERS@OISE.UTORONTO.CA 416-978-0197

Annual General Meeting, Outstanding Educator Presentation and Dinner	Thurs. April 23	Faculty Club, University of Toronto 41 Willcocks Street (east of Spadina, north of College, south of Bloor).	6:00 PM Social 7:00 PM Dinner
Niagara Falls Get Together	Sat., April 25	Niagara Falls - Contact Elizabeth Manker 905-358-3825, SIDECAR09@aol.com	5:00 PM Dinner 8:00 PM Concert
Jackman Award Application Due	Fri., May 1	See www.pdk-ut.ca Contact: Dr. Barnabas Emenogu barnabas.emenogu@ontario.ca	Application Deadline
PDK Book Club	Sat., May 9	Book: <u>A Short History of Progress</u> by Ronald Wright Contact: Mary El Milosh 416-229-0496 maryelmilosh@hotmail.com	5:00 Dinner 7:00 Discussion
Graduate Award Application Due	Mon., June 1	Download forms from www.pdkintl.org/scholarships Contact: Susan Seidman, sseidman@sympatico.ca	Application Deadline



Shawn Lepp
 Sales Representative

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