

The PDK-USC Kappan

The Official Newsletter of the University of Southern California Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa International

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MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of Phi Delta Kappa shall be to promote quality education, in particular publicly supported education, as essential to the development and maintenance of a democratic way of life. This purpose shall be accomplished through research, service, and leadership in education.

From the Constitution of Phi Delta Kappa International



2006-07 PDK-USC GOVERNING BOARD

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PDK-USC Web Site

<http://www.pdk-usc.org>

Webmaster: Victor Gonzalez

Advisor

Dr. Marian Fukuda

Faculty Sponsor

Dr. Melora Sundt

Newsletter Editor

Lisa Regan

Join us for our first PDK-USC Dinner Meeting
“Putting the Public Back in Public Education”

Friday, September 8, 2006

6:00 p.m.

USC UPSTAIRS COMMONS DINING ROOM

Guest Speaker: Mónica García

LAUSD Board Member, Board District 2



To RSVP, see pages 2 and 3

Meet the Speaker... Mónica García



*E*lected earlier this year to fill the vacancy on the LAUSD Board of Education, Mónica García is the new representative of Board District 2. Ms. García will represent the students, parents, and communities in the area stretching from El Sereno to Hancock Park, and from Highland Park to Downtown and the area just east of USC.

Ms. García comes to LAUSD with experience from the classroom to the boardroom. For six years, Ms. García served as an academic advisor at Foshay Learning Center in Los Angeles through the Volunteers of America's Educational Talent Search Program. During this time she was chosen to staff the National Student Leadership Congress at American University. She was also a founding member of Camp College Los Angeles, which served LAUSD middle school students. As Director of Community Services for Eastmont Community Center, Ms. García provided direct social services, referrals, and opportunities for community engagement. As the founder and co-director of *Comadres In Action* and the *Soy Inteligente Project*, Ms. García designed and implemented college readiness skills workshops for first-generation college students and their families.

Prior to joining the Board of Education, Ms. García served as chief of staff to LAUSD Board President José Huizar throughout his four-year tenure. As chief of staff, Ms. García was an effective leader and focused her efforts to reduce dropout rates and improve academic achievement throughout the district. Ms. García worked side by side Mr. Huizar to increase opportunities for all students and their families. Their efforts contributed to creating safer schools, building 160 new schools across the city to reduce class size, and establishing a policy that guarantees every student in the district access to the courses necessary to attend a four-year university.

Born and raised in East Los Angeles, Ms. García attended local schools and graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with bachelor's degrees in Chicano studies and political science. She later earned her master's degree in social work from the University of Southern California.

Message from the President

By Meg Palisoc

Greetings Fellow Kappans! I am honored to serve a second year as your Chapter President. This is an exciting year to be a Kappan since we are celebrating the centennial anniversary of the founding of Phi Delta Kappa. I encourage you to visit the PDK International Web site (www.pdkintl.org) to learn more about the history of our parent organization.

The PDK-USC Chapter also has its own rich history to celebrate. Therefore, our chapter's theme for this year is *Building a Legacy: Honoring the Past and Advancing the Future*. This theme will be highlighted in our newsletter articles. In particular, we would like to feature YOU in our chapter newsletter. I know that many of you have interesting stories to share about yourself and how you are advancing the future of the education profession. Many of you can also help us honor the past by sharing stories about your experiences with our chapter. So, whether you have been a member of our chapter for three months or for over 30 years, we would love to hear from you!

Please e-mail our VP of Projects and Newsletter Editor, Lisa Regan (lisa.regan@lausd.net), your personal accomplishments and/or favorite memories about our chapter. Some of you may have been among the first female members of our chapter. Or maybe you remember when our new member initiation ceremonies took place at the United University Church on the USC campus. We want to hear from you so we can share this information in our newsletters and/or on our Web site (www.pdk-usc.org). Please help us preserve the fond memories of our chapter and help teach new members about our unique history and traditions.

There are many ways for you to become more involved in the PDK-USC Chapter this year. In addition to sending us your stories and exciting news, you have the opportunity to hear another year of outstanding speakers at our Chapter Dinner Meetings this year, who will share with us ways they have and/or plan to help advance the future of education. In addition, our chapter will award School Site Innovation Grants this spring, and applications will be available later this fall (see page 4 for more details). We will also begin the process of revising our Chapter By-Laws under the guidance of longstanding and dedicated PDK-USC member Dr. Bill Wright, VP of Projects. I look forward to hearing your stories about our chapter, and I hope to see you at our meetings this year! 🐾



Special Discount for Dinner Meetings!!!

Purchase all five dinner meetings in advance and receive **a 10% Discount** to those meetings (a savings of \$15).*

Mail the form below and your check for **\$135.00** per person, made payable to PDK-USC Chapter, to:

PDK-USC Chapter, c/o Nick Nichols
2910 W. 235th Street, #9 Torrance, CA 90505

DON'T MISS OUT – THE LAST DAY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS SPECIAL DISCOUNT IS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5th.
Your check and this form must arrive before this date.

* Sorry, no refunds will be given after purchases are made. All five dinners will take place at the USC Upstairs Commons Dining Room. If you are unable to attend a dinner meeting after purchasing this special package, please inform Nick Nichols at (818) 456-9732 or nick.nichols@lausd.net at least one week in advance so your dinner expenses can be your contribution to the PDK-USC Chapter. Parking is no longer included in the Dinner Meeting subscription.

CUT HERE

_____ **YES**, sign me up! I want to take advantage of the PDK-USC special dinner discount.
_____ **Regretfully**, I cannot attend the dinner meetings. Instead, here is my \$135.00 contribution to the PDK-USC Chapter.

Name: _____ PDK Membership # (if applicable) _____

Phone #: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Additional Guests' Name(s), if applicable: _____

Dinner #1: _____ BBQ Chicken _____ BBQ Pork Ribs _____ Vegetarian
Dinner #2: _____ Chicken _____ Salmon _____ Vegetarian
Dinner #3: _____ Chicken _____ Beef _____ Vegetarian

Dinner #4: _____ Chicken _____ Salmon _____ Vegetarian
Dinner #5: _____ Chicken _____ Salmon _____ Vegetarian



2006-07 USC Phi Delta Kappa CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September

- 8 – PDK-USC Dinner Meeting**
USC Upstairs Commons Dining Room, 6:00 p.m.
21 – PDK-USC Board Meeting, WPH 900, 5:30 p.m.

October

- 19-22 – PDK International Conference**
Washington, D.C.

November

- 3 – PDK-USC Dinner Meeting**
USC Upstairs Commons Dining Room, 6:00 p.m.

December

- 7 – PDK-USC Board Meeting**, WPH 900, 5:30 p.m.

Chapter Dinner Meetings are in Bold.
Everyone is welcome at the Board Meetings.

A map of the USC University Park Campus can be found at
http://www.usc.edu/about/visit/upc/driving_directions/

January

- 26 – PDK-USC Stoops Lecture Dinner Meeting**
USC Upstairs Commons Dining Room, 6:00 p.m.

February

- 8 – PDK-USC Board Meeting**, WPH 900, 5:30 p.m.

March

- 9 – PDK-USC Dinner Meeting**
(USC Ed.D. Student Presentations)
USC Upstairs Commons Dining Room, 6:00 p.m.
15 – PDK-USC Board Meeting, WPH 900, 5:30 p.m.

May

- 4 – PDK-USC Dinner and Awards Meeting**
USC Upstairs Commons Dining Room, 6:00 p.m.

June

- 7 – PDK-USC Board Meeting**, WPH 900, 5:30 p.m.

Save The Date!!!



PDK-USC DINNER MEETING @ THE USC UPSTAIRS COMMONS DINING ROOM
(Located on the 2nd floor of the Student Union Building – STU on Campus Map)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2006 at 6:00 p.m.

DINNER RESERVATION DEADLINE IS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5th.

Name(s): _____ Total # Attending: _____

PDK Membership # (if applicable) _____ Phone #: _____

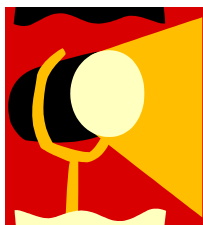
Meal Choice: _____ BBQ Chicken _____ BBQ Pork Ribs _____ Vegetarian

Mail your check (made payable to *PDK-USC Chapter*) for **\$30.00*** per person (NOT including parking)
with this form. It must arrive before Tuesday, September 5th to:

PDK-USC Chapter
c/o Nick Nichols
2910 W. 235th Street, #9
Torrance, CA 90505

*This amount does not include parking. Parking on campus costs \$7.00. Parking is no longer available through Gate #2.
Please enter through Gate #3 off of Figueroa Street and USC McCarthy Way to park in Parking Structure X.

To take advantage of a 10% Discount offer, see page 2 of this newsletter.



Spotlight on New Members

The foundation of any strong chapter of Phi Delta Kappa is the recruitment of new members. As part of the 100th year celebration, the PDK-USC Chapter is launching an initiative to attract new members to join our community of Los Angeles-area educators dedicated to research, leadership, and service for public school children. Each PDK-USC member in good standing is *strongly encouraged* to sponsor as many new members as possible, and this year we will offer additional incentives...just our way of saying thanks for ensuring the legacy and tradition of PDK-USC. Please distribute the PDK-USC New Member Application on page 7 to future and present educators who would benefit from membership in our proud chapter. Duplicate additional copies as necessary. For more information about sponsoring new chapter members, contact Dr. Alexis Sheehy, Vice-President of Membership, at alexisheehy@yahoo.com.

Meet Some Of Our New Members...

Myrna Estrada is a science expert in the LAUSD Science Branch of Instructional Support Services. She is primarily responsible for implementation of the ninth grade science curriculum. Myrna is a member of the USC Ed.D. Class of 2007, specializing in science education. Previously, Myrna was a chemistry and physical science teacher at Garfield High School and at schools in the Philippines and Nigeria.



Victor Gonzalez is a specialist in LAUSD's Program Improvement Unit, working with underperforming Title I schools to increase student achievement. He has also been accepted to USC's Ed.D. program and will start this fall. Previously, Victor was a Secondary Literacy Expert in the LAUSD central office, and he was also the magnet coordinator at King Gifted Middle/Magnet School and Downtown Business/Electronic Information Magnet High School. Victor has also helped start a school in Nicaragua and previously ran for school board in Pasadena. A former history/social studies teacher at Berendo Middle School and a graduate of LACES, Victor earned his bachelor's in Social Science and a master's in Educational Administration from California State University, Los Angeles.

Continued on page 5

Exciting PDK-USC Projects Coming This Spring



School Site Innovation Grants

The Executive Board of PDK-USC has decided to award several School Site Innovation Grants to members who are teachers, administrators, or instructional staff at area K-12 public schools. In keeping with the mission of Phi Delta Kappa, the grants will be awarded to members or teams of members who propose an innovative project based on one of the three tenets of PDK: Research, Leadership, and Service.

- ★ **Research** Grant Projects would involve a blending of original research with a practical, innovative application. Student projects might develop greater depth in an area of the core curriculum such as history, literature, or science. Teacher projects might study the implementation of a research-based instructional program in or across classrooms or student subgroups.
- ★ **Leadership** Grant Projects would focus on developing student or teacher leadership skills. Projects might involve establishing a new school site program or taking initiative to expand one's repertoire of skills.
- ★ **Service** Grant Projects would involve students and teachers in volunteer service. Projects might include developing a service learning opportunity in the community or a campuswide volunteer effort to support an aspect of the school.

Each member may apply for one \$200 grant, or teams of members may apply for a \$400 award. Applications will be available as an insert in the January 2007 newsletter and will be posted on our Web site and will be due January 31st. The grants will be awarded at our Annual Awards Dinner Meeting on May 4, 2007. For more information, contact Lisa Regan, PDK-USC Vice President, at lisa.regan@lausd.net.



Member Survey

The Executive Board wants your input! Coming this spring, PDK-USC members will have the opportunity to shape the future of our chapter by participating in a survey. More details are forthcoming in *The PDK-USC Kappan* and on our Web site, www.pdk-usc.org.

New Members *(Continued from page 4)*

Dr. Peggy Gutierrez is the Math Department Chairperson and Math Coach for Lindbergh Middle School in the Long Beach Unified School District. Prior to joining Lindbergh, Dr. Gutierrez was an original member of the faculty of the prestigious California Academy of Math and Science, a magnet school located on the campus of Cal State Dominguez Hills. Peggy also serves as an adjunct professor at Cal State Dominguez Hills's School of Education, teaching methods courses. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees from California State University, Long Beach and her doctorate in Urban Educational Leadership from the USC Rossier School of Education.



Daniel Hacking is the principal of John Muir Middle School in the Burbank Unified School District. Daniel was promoted to this position after serving as the school's assistant principal for discipline and activities. Daniel completed his doctorate in Educational Leadership at the USC Rossier School of Education in May 2006. A native of Cambridge, England who became a U.S. citizen earlier this year, Daniel was a history and social studies teacher at Burroughs High School in Burbank. He earned his bachelor's in social science from UCLA and his master's in Educational Leadership from California State University, Hayward.

Guillermina Jauregui is the principal of International Studies Learning Center, a grades 6-12 middle/high school, in South Gate. Previously, she was an assistant principal for instruction at Alain Leroy Locke High School and John C. Fremont High School in Los Angeles. A former high school French and Spanish teacher in LAUSD, she has also held positions supporting and coaching new teachers at various sites in LAUSD. Guillermina completed her doctorate in educational leadership at the USC Rossier School of Education in May 2006.



Kristen Kaiser is a coordinator in LAUSD's Program Improvement Unit. She has also been accepted to USC's Ed.D. program and will start this fall. Previously, Kristen was the principal at Avalon Continuation High School, assistant principal for student counseling services at San Pedro High School, and a teacher and counselor at Johnson Opportunity High School. A former ESL and bilingual teacher at Carver Middle School and in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Kristen earned her bachelor's in critical and creative writing from the Johns Hopkins University and master's degrees in ESL from University of Massachusetts, Boston and in counseling and educational leadership from California State University, Los Angeles.

Tish Nilsen is the principal of Wells Middle School in the Alvord Unified School District in Riverside. Prior to this position, she was an assistant principal at King High School in the Riverside Unified School District and at Portola Middle School in the Orange Unified School District. Previously, Tish taught English and physical education at the secondary level for 17 years and was also a guidance counselor. Tish completed her doctorate in educational leadership at the USC Rossier School of Education in May 2006. She also earned her bachelor's in education from Wright State University and her master's in education from Alliant University.

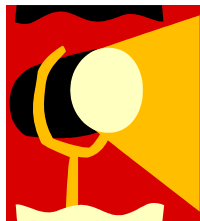


Sharon Nordheim is the assistant superintendent of business services for the Westminster School District. She has held many leadership positions in various public school districts over the last 35 years, with an emphasis on student counseling and human resources, including assistant superintendent positions in Montebello and Palos Verdes. She has taught college level education classes at Chapman University, Coastline College, and Whittier College. Sharon completed her doctorate in educational leadership at the USC Rossier School of Education in May 2006.

Barbara Shannon is the director of multicultural affairs and service learning at Westridge School for Girls in Pasadena. She started there in 1997 as the AP biology and general biology teacher. Barbara completed her doctorate in learning and instruction with an emphasis in science education at the USC Rossier School of Education in Summer 2006. Before her current position, Barbara taught science and health at Adams Junior High School in LAUSD and in Upland. She earned a master's in Biology at California Polytechnic University, Pomona, has been a clinical and hospital lab scientist, and has taught biology and P.E. at Etiwanda High School and in Eureka. ☺



More new initiates will be featured in upcoming issues of *The PDK-USC Kappan*
Sponsor your colleagues to become members of PDK-USC – See pages 4 & 7



Member Spotlight

*T*he PDK-USC Kappan is looking for news, information, and stories about our members to highlight in upcoming issues and/or on our Web site. If you or another PDK-USC member you know has an exciting achievement that is of note or importance, please share it with us so we can pass along the good news! Have you or a fellow PDK-USC member recently been promoted or celebrated a professional accomplishment (e.g., career milestone, achievement, honor, award, publication)? How are you advancing the future of education?

Member Name: _____

USC Graduation Year: Bachelor's _____ Master's _____ Doctorate _____

Describe the news

Be as specific as possible. Include: new title, school/district/office, and responsibilities; recent publication title and journal/publisher; name of honor/award and awarding institution; career milestone or retirement, etc. Attach additional sheets if necessary.

Share Your Story - Building a Legacy: Honoring the Past and Advancing the Future

In honor of the 100th Anniversary of Phi Delta Kappa International, share your memories of the proud tradition of the USC Chapter of PDK by describing some of your experiences with our chapter. Attach additional sheets if necessary.

Submissions are welcome any time of the year.

Contact Phone Number: Day () _____ Evening () _____

Contact E-mail : _____

Please send via US mail or e-mail to:

Lisa Regan

Vice President and Editor, *The PDK-USC Kappan*

5861 Ernest Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90034

OR lisa.regan@lausd.net



2006 PDK Summit on Public Education



Conference Scholarships

Excerpt from the Paul H. Henkin Scholarship Application

In 2006, PDK will be celebrating its 100th anniversary. In conjunction with this milestone — and as charged by the PDK mission to promote quality education as essential to the development and maintenance of a democratic way of life — this year's conference is the Summit on Public Education, to be held October 19-22 in Washington, D.C. The objective is to facilitate serious, thought-provoking dialogue about sustaining public schools.

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY FOR PDK-USC MEMBERS

The PDK-USC chapter will reimburse the early bird registration fee (\$260) for up to five members to attend PDK International's Summit on Public Education in Washington, D.C. from October 19-21, 2006. To take advantage of this opportunity, please email President Meg Palisoc at megpalisoc@hotmail.com or call her at (323) 459-5463 on or before Friday, August 25, 2006. If more than five members respond, then only five members' names will be selected via a random lottery process. In order to receive the reimbursement, you must:

1. Be a good-standing member of our chapter.
2. Register for the conference before September 10th to obtain the Early Registration price.
3. After the conference is over, submit a reimbursement request form and attach your conference registration receipt as well as proof of conference attendance. ☞

Paul H. Henkin was a PDK member who left a gift to the Phi Delta Kappa Educational Foundation establishing an endowed scholarship fund to help educators who are new to the profession attend PDK's conference.

Dr. Henkin specified minimum criteria for the conference scholarship as follows: 1) Graduated within three years of the award with a degree in education, library science, psychology, or counseling; 2) Work directly with children in a non-administrative role; 3) Not employed by Phi Delta Kappa or eligible for compensation or expense reimbursement from PDK; 4) One-time award; and 5) Used toward cost of registration fee, lodging, and travel only to PDK's annual conference (the 2006 Summit on Public Education).

Phi Delta Kappa International will award The Henkin Scholarship annually to PDK members who meet the qualifications stated above and are selected by a screening committee. The number and amount of the awards will be determined by the quality of applications received. The minimum award is \$1,000.

Scholarship applications are due August 15, 2006.
Applications can be found at www.pdkintl.org. ☞

WALK FOR EDUCATION

Help raise money for the PDK International Educational Foundation by participating in the Walk for Education event at the 2006 PDK Summit on Public Education or be a Team Leader and coordinate a Walk for Education event in Los Angeles on October 21, 2006. Visit www.pdkintl.org for more information. Sign-up deadline is September 21st.

The PDK-USC Kappan
Phi Delta Kappa International Chapter #0029
USC Rossier School of Education
WPH 1101
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0031

Address Correction Requested