

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



From the Constitution of Phi Delta Kappa International



2004-2005 PDK-USC GOVERNING BOARD

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Newsletter Dr. Robert Whipple

Join us for our next PDK Dinner Meeting

PDK-USC Annual Awards & Installation Dinner

Inspirational Speaker: Peter Nisotis

A 'Brief' History of the PDK-USC Chapter

Friday, May 6th, 2005 6:00 P.M.

USC UPSTAIRS COMMONS CAFÉ



Meet the Inspiration...

Peter Nisotis

Past President PDK-USC 1962-1963

Peter Nisotis retired as principal of Clifford Street Elementary School in 1987. He served the Los Angeles Unified School District for 35 years.

Peter has been a member of the PDK-USC Chapter for 52 years.

March 2005 Thematic Dissertation Presenters



Pictured above is Elsa Mendoza (left), Josephine Zarro (center), and Alisa Lindheim. These scholars presented research from a recent Rossier School of Education Ed.D. Thematic Dissertation Focus titled: The Effect of Teacher Evaluation Process on Teacher Practice (see page 3 for details).

The Importance of Inquiry

By Bill Wright

Research Representative

Research can be defined as diligent and systematic inquiry into a subject for the purpose of discovery. The key idea is inquiry. The nature of the inquiry affects the structure of the discovery. All of us are users of research in the sense of inquiry. As consumers of goods in the marketplace, we have legitimate questions about the products we accept.

PDK has emphasized research in approaching the purposes of education.

Many of us will not engage in specific research studies and projects.

However, we all need to engage in diligent and systematic inquiry.

Unfortunately, in education as in other aspects of society, conclusions are often drawn from tangential, irrelevant or misleading questions.

When we read or hear pronouncements regarding educational successes or shortcomings, we need to use a "research" mind to examine the assumptions, assertions, and conclusions presented. Were these based on inquiry using the appropriate questions?

The PHI DELTA KAPPAN is a significant tool to aid in diligent inquiry. In current issues, note particularly "Why Our Intuitions About Testing Don't Work" (March) and "The Achievement Gap" section (April).

SAVE THE DATE!!!

PDK-USC DINNER MEETING (2005 Awards & Installation Ceremony)

@ UPSTAIRS COMMONS CAFÉ (Located on the 2nd floor of the Student Union Building)

FRIDAY, May 6th, 2005

6:00 P.M.

DINNER RESERVATION DEADLINE IS Monday, May 2nd.

Name(s): _____ Total # Attending: _____

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

Meal Choices (Select one)

:

Meal Choices: _____ Vegetarian (Pasta) _____ Beef _____ Salmon

Mail your check (made payable to *PDK-USC Chapter*) for **\$25.00*** per person (NOT including parking) with this form before Monday, May 2nd to:

PDK-USC Chapter
c/o Stephenie Winn
15529 S Normandie, Unit A-1
Gardena, CA 90247

**This amount does not include parking. Parking on campus costs \$6.00.*

PDK-USC Longevity Awards

The USC Chapter would like to recognize the members who have received PDK International certificates of recognition. We encourage the members listed below to attend our May 6th Dinner meeting to receive their PDK-USC International Certificate of Recognition in person.

Members listed below who have reached their 30, 35, 40, and 45 year increments will be guests of the chapter and receive a complimentary dinner. Longevity award recipients must register for dinner and guests are welcome to attend.

5 years

Heidi Sue Applebaum
William E. Baker
Marshall Neal Gartenlaub
Mary K. Hendra
Sandra P. Barber Moore
Cassandra Lucille Morris
Victoria E. Sanchez-Franklin
Bruce T. Takashima
Dr. Sue Ann Wheeler-Ayres
Stephanie Winn
Gretchen Ehr Young

10 Years

Cassandra Adachi
Diane Rusling Becket
Cynthia Ann Betances
Daria Shockley Burnett
Jessie Agnes Clark
Dr. Stephen Paul Dierking
Dr. Stuart E. Gothold
Mary Alice Walton King
Amy Lambert
Diane Lewis
Amin C. Oria
Kevin Neal Rafferty
Dr. Myrna Lynn Rivera
Cheryl M. Roberts
Traynor C. Schreiber
Catherine Michelle Segura
Virginia May Trapani

15 Years

Jan Ellen Albrecht
Anne Shier Elder
Gloria Garcia Miranda
Marion Girard
Janet Ellen Harke-Gonzalez
Mariateresa Roghi Mendoza
Daryl I. Narimatsu
Allyson Akemi Oide
Anna Millard Rogers
Mary Ellen Storm
Debra Andrea Von Sprecken
Linda Corinne Weber
Darylene Marie Williams

20 Years

Myrna E. Dysart
Karen S. Gallagher
Judith Frame Henderson
Edward E. Hogg
Annette A. Kessler
David E. Murphy
Diane Ramos Ramirez
Joseph J. Scollo
Dorothy Wong Warner-Jeheber
Patricia Joanne N. Wickwire
Nancy Ellen Wolf
Ruben Zacarias

25 Years

Terri Lynn Arnold
Robert Maxwell Caplan
Daniel Edward Fichtner
Maria Gutierrez Ott
Stanley M. Smith
Amita Tetrault
Theresa Magdaleno Villa
Estelle Mary Williams

30 Years

Bette Alice Caldwell
Dr. Marguerite Connelly
Marian Jackson Patterson
Carol Sachiko Tanizawa
Dorothy Hayes Washington

35 Years

James W. Keefe
James E. Newby

40 Years

Benjamin S. Villa

45 Years

Richard G. Taylor

Thematic Dissertation Focus 2005

This year's Thematic Dissertation Focus dealt with the effect of the teacher evaluation process on teacher practice. *Dr. Stuart Gothold* moderated the thematic group by questioning "what is it that affects teacher evaluation and teacher performance?" According to *Josephine Zarro*, the thematic dissertation group used empirical research methods to study a group of schools that raised "Academic Performance Index (API) scores three consecutive years and had a similar school ranking of seven or above."

According to *Elsa Mendoza*, the thematic group "used uniform data collection tools" to increase the reliability of the overall study.

Alisha Lindheim, found the teacher evaluation processes were correlated with: school leadership effectiveness, organizational culture of the school, and teacher efficacy. Lindheim concluded the "key marker" of an effective teacher evaluation process "begins with leadership."

2004-2005 PDK-USC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May

6 - PDK-USC Annual Awards & Installation Dinner,
Upstairs Commons Café, 6:00 p.m.

June

9 - PDK-USC Board Meeting, WPH 900, 5:30 p.m.

2005-2006 PDK-USC Chapter Board Elections

Phi Delta Kappa International 2005 Conference and Exhibit

Plan now to attend the Phi Delta Kappa International 2005 Conference and Exhibit from Nov. 10 to 13. The New Orleans Riverside Hilton is preparing to welcome educators from across the United States and the world to this cutting-edge conference, which is focused on the theme: **Doing What Matters: Education, Democracy, and the Future**. If you're interested in submitting a session proposal visit <http://www.pdkintl.org/pdkconf05/welcome.htm>.

Support the PDK Educational Foundation

Please consider making a voluntary contribution of \$5 or more to support the PDK Educational Foundation. Your pledge to the Educational Foundation helps to provide scholarships, publishes books, sponsors seminars and institutes, and supports other significant activities. You will receive a pledge card soon via the mail or you can pay online at www.pdkintl.org.

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Address Correction Requested