

# 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*



## 2005-2006 PDK-USC GOVERNING BOARD

|               |                     |
|---------------|---------------------|
| President     | Meg Palisoc         |
| VP Membership | Dr. Alexis Sheehy   |
| VP Programs   | Dr. Ed Robillard    |
| VP Projects   | Dr. Emery Stoops    |
| VP Projects   | Stephenie Winn      |
| VP Projects   | Dr. Robert Whipple  |
| Secretary     | Robert Nelli        |
| Treasurer     | Linda Weber         |
| Historian     | Billie Jean Barrett |
| Research      | Dr. Bill Wright     |
| Foundations   | Adda Serenil        |

### Advisor:

Dr. Marian Fukuda

### Faculty Sponsor:

Dr. Stuart Gothold

### Newsletter Editor:

Lisa Regan

Join us for our next PDK-USC Dinner Meeting

## "My Five-Month Return to Leadership in LAUSD"

Friday, September 9, 2005

6:00 P.M.

USC UPSTAIRS COMMONS GARDEN ROOM

Guest Speaker: Dan Isaacs, Chief Operating Officer, LAUSD  
Inspiration by Dr. Bill Wright, PDK-USC Research Representative  
To RSVP, see pages 2 and 3

## Meet the Speaker... Dan Isaacs



I have had the privilege of working for the Los Angeles Unified School District in a variety of positions for the past thirty-eight years. I began my career as a classroom teacher and then became a secondary school site administrator in several comprehensive high schools. I led the Senior High Schools Division as Assistant Superintendent where I was responsible for 49 comprehensive high schools, five continuation high schools, six opportunity centers, and five magnet schools, with a total enrollment of 134,000 students. I coordinated School Operations as Assistant Superintendent where I was responsible for a variety of operational issues, including school safety for 640 schools with an enrollment of 711,000 pre-K through grade 12 students.

I am currently serving as Chief Operating Officer where I am responsible for: School Safety; Youth Relations; Business Services; Health and Safety; Informational Technology; Planning, Assessment, and Research; Risk Management and Insurance Services; Crisis Counseling; Human Resources; Community Partnerships; and all of the inherent subdivisions. The positions that I have held enabled me to develop a broad, in-depth perspective and understanding about the strengths and needs of the schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

I am on a clear mission that will guide the work of our office: provide service and assistance to schools, students, parents, and staff in all the areas that fall under my supervision. My goals are to restore credibility for the central district in the eyes of school site personnel; improve communication with schools, offices, employees, and the public; to focus on customer service, and do everything in my power to insure that every child has a safe and orderly school environment in which to learn and grow. I plan to do this in a variety of ways, including responsive, respectful, and forthright communication. My discussion at the PDK-USC Dinner Meeting will outline ideas, programs, and progress accomplished toward achieving these goals.

# Message from the President

By Meg Palisoc

Greetings Fellow Kappans! I am honored to be your Chapter President for the 2005-2006 school year. Like many of you, I have had the opportunity of working in a wide array of positions in both the K-12 and higher education worlds. Currently, I am the Co-Founder/Co-Director of Synergy Charter Academy, a K-5 public charter school authorized by the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) that serves educationally disadvantaged students in South Los Angeles. Prior to starting Synergy, I was an elementary school teacher in LAUSD. Before becoming a teacher, I worked in Student Affairs at the USC School of Engineering.

Too often we hear about what's wrong with public education. However, I know that many of you are advancing the field of education by doing wonderful things in your classrooms, schools, and districts and through your research. One of my visions for our chapter this year is to celebrate YOU and the many other educators making a positive difference in people's lives. Please e-mail our Newsletter Editor, Lisa Regan (lregan@lausd.net), your accomplishments and/or favorite stories as an educator. Perhaps you recently won a grant for your classroom or school. Maybe you completed a research project that has practical implications for teachers, administrators, or policy makers. Some of you may have received promotions for the new school year. We want to hear from you so we can share this information either in our newsletters or on our website (www.pdk-usc.org).

I also want to challenge each chapter member to make this the year that you become more active with our chapter. We have an outstanding group of Board Members who have already started working hard to make this another successful year full of many exciting opportunities for you to get involved. In addition to our traditional dinner meetings (see Calendar of Events on page 3), we hope to continue celebrating local educators by co-hosting a PDK-LA Teacher's Day, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, February 25, 2006. We want to partner with as many local universities and school districts as possible to celebrate educators, share best practices, and share stories of what's right with public education. If you are interested in helping to coordinate this special event, please contact me at megpalisoc@hotmail.com. Also, visit our chapter booth at the USC Homecoming football game on Saturday, October 29, 2005, and/or join fellow PDK International members at the PDK International Conference in New Orleans from November 10-13, 2005. I look forward to meeting you at a PDK event this year!

## Special Discount for Dinner Meetings!!!

*Purchase all five dinner meetings in advance and receive  
FREE parking for those meetings (a savings of \$35).\**

Mail the form below and your check for \$150.00 per person, made payable to PDK-USC Chapter, to:

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

DON'T MISS OUT – THE LAST DAY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS SPECIAL DISCOUNT IS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>.  
PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM AND YOUR CHECK BEFORE THIS DATE.

\* Sorry, no refunds will be given after purchases are made. All five dinners will take place at the USC Upstairs Commons Garden Room. In order to obtain FREE parking, you must enter through Gate #3 off of Figueroa St. and USC McCarthy Way, and tell the attendant, "PDK" and your name. If you are unable to attend a dinner meeting after purchasing this special deal, please inform Stephenie Winn (310-719-9764) which dinner you cannot attend (before the dinner date) so that your dinner expenses can be considered as your contribution to the PDK-USC Chapter.

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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 \$150.00 contribution to the PDK-USC Chapter.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ PDK Membership # (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Guests' Name(s), if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_

Meal Preferences: The first dinner meeting is a BBQ Buffet. After the first dinner meeting, you will receive information regarding how to indicate your meal preferences for future dinner meetings.

# 2005-2006 PDK-USC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## September

- 9 – PDK-USC Dinner Meeting,  
USC Upstairs Commons Garden Room, 6:00 p.m.  
29 – PDK-USC Board Meeting, WPH 900, 5:30 p.m.

## October

- 29 – PDK-USC Booth at the  
USC Homecoming Football Game,  
Time and Location TBD

## November

- 10-13 – PDK International 2005 Conference,  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
(register at [www.pdkintl.org](http://www.pdkintl.org))  
18 – PDK-USC Dinner Meeting,  
USC Upstairs Commons Garden Room, 6:00 p.m.

## December

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

## January

- 20 – PDK-USC Stoops Lecture Dinner Meeting,  
USC Upstairs Commons Garden Room, 6:00 p.m.

## February

- 9 – PDK-USC Board Meeting, WPH 900, 5:30 p.m.  
25 – PDK-LA Teacher's Day,  
Time and Location TBD

## March

- 24 – PDK-USC Dinner Meeting  
(USC EdD Student Presentations),  
USC Upstairs Commons Garden Room, 6:00 p.m.  
30 – PDK-USC Board Meeting, WPH 900, 5:30 p.m.

## May

- 5 – PDK-USC Dinner and Awards Meeting,  
USC Upstairs Commons Garden Room, 6:00 p.m.

## June

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

Chapter Dinner Meetings are 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/](http://www.usc.edu/about/visit/upc/driving_directions/)

## SAVE THE DATE!!!

PDK-USC DINNER MEETING @ THE USC UPSTAIRS COMMONS GARDEN ROOM  
(Located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Student Union Building – STU on Campus Map)  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2005  
6:00 P.M.

DINNER RESERVATION DEADLINE IS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Total # Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

PDK Membership # (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Meal Choice: A BBQ Buffet will be served at this dinner meeting. Veggie burgers will be available for vegetarians.

Mail your check (made payable to *PDK-USC Chapter*) for \$30.00\* per person (NOT including parking)  
with this form before Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> to:

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

\*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 free parking offer, see page 2 of this newsletter.

# Members Encouraged to Attend the 2005 PDK International Conference

*Excerpt from the PDK International Website at [www.pdkintl.org](http://www.pdkintl.org)*

Plan now to attend the Phi Delta Kappa International 2005 Conference from November 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*. Don't be left out!

For the first time, conference participants can earn graduate credit by participating in a one-day pre-conference workshop held November 10<sup>th</sup>. In addition, breakout and awareness sessions will expand the educational conversation about *Doing What Matters* by focusing on three themes: Practices That Improve Teaching and Learning, Classrooms of Tomorrow, and Keeping the Public in Public Education.

Whether you are a teacher, a principal or assistant principal, a central office administrator, or a teacher educator, you will find many opportunities for professional growth. You'll meet and network with colleagues from across the United States and around the globe... We hope to see you there.

# Conference Scholarships Available

*Excerpt from the Paul H. Henkin Scholarship Application*

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.

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 September 15, 2005. Detailed information about the PDK Conference, including the Paul H. Henkin Scholarship Application, can be found at [www.pdkintl.org](http://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 2005 PDK International Conference or be a Team Leader and coordinate a Walk for Education event in Los Angeles on November 12, 2005. Visit [www.pdkintl.org](http://www.pdkintl.org) for more information. Sign-up deadline is October 12, 2005.

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*