

# UNL Phi Delta Kappa

Chapter 0015 Established 1914



Spring 2010

## 2009-2010

### Chapter Officers and Executive Board

President, Dr. Michael McDonald

Chapter Advisors, Dr. Ron Joekel and  
Dr. Jody Isernhagen

Chapter Liaison, Dr. Harriet Gould

Programming, Loretta Sheets, John  
Neal, and Jessica Rivera

Secretary and Treasurer,  
Dr. Carrie Campbell

Membership and Scholarship,  
Jo Theis and Dr. Jeewa Moses

Research, Dr. Marilyn Grady

Web Content, Dr. Anastasia McNulty

Website Development and Web  
2.0 Support, Drew Ramaekers

### Deadline--April 9<sup>th</sup> for Scholarships -- "Future Teachers" and "High School Seniors"

Visit our website for  
scholarship information and  
updates, [pdk.unl.edu](http://pdk.unl.edu)

### Membership benefits

include Phi Delta Kappan.  
This journal and online  
resources are included with  
membership dues and provides  
updates on current research  
and debates in the field of  
education, [www.pdkintl.org](http://www.pdkintl.org)

Encourage fellow educators to  
become members of PDK and  
participate in chapter activities.

For more information, contact  
Jo Theis, [jtheis@lps.org](mailto:jtheis@lps.org) or  
Dr. Jeewa Moses,  
[yjmoses@ucollege.edu](mailto:yjmoses@ucollege.edu).

## State Senator to Address PDK Members

On March 31 Senator Greg Adams from District 24 will be the guest speaker for our annual collaborative meeting with the UNO chapter. Adams will discuss the status of education bills in the unicameral, his view of the recently submitted grant, Race to the Top, and future steps of education in Nebraska.

Adams, elected to the Nebraska legislature in 2006, presently serves as the chairperson for the Unicameral Education Committee. The senator brings to this position his experience as a former social studies teacher at York High School and a former president of the Nebraska Council of Social Studies Teachers. Adams has also formerly served as the mayor of York, a member of the York City Council, a member of Nebraska Information and Technology Commission, and an executive board member for the League of Nebraska Municipalities.

Prior to the senator's address, the evening will include a social and formal dinner at Mahoney State Park. Following dinner PDK officers will present annual awards to recognize outstanding work in our region. You are encouraged to register prior to the March 24<sup>th</sup> deadline, because the joint activity with UNO generally fills the 80 spots. Refer to [pdk.unl.edu](http://pdk.unl.edu) for registration details.

## Vote in the PDK Spring 2010 International Elections

The executive board encourages members to vote in the Spring 2010 International PDK elections. This election is especially important, because PDK recently revised the regional boundaries, reducing the number of board positions. A new regional map can be located online at [www.pdkintl.org](http://www.pdkintl.org). Members will have until April 26, 2010 to submit their ballots, which will be sent out at the end of this month.

One of our local members is running for office. Doug Christensen, former Nebraska Commissioner of Education, is a Board Member candidate. Bob Myers from the UNO Chapter is also seeking a national position in Region B. Their official position statements are posted at our PDK website. A portion of Doug's statement is listed below.

### DOUG CHRISTENSEN'S POSITION STATEMENT

As a member of the PDK International board, I will be a **strong voice** for:

- Educators, utilizing relationships I have established in 14 years as the Nebraska commissioner of education, advocating for their place at the policy-making tables and for their roles as leaders in determining classroom practice.
- Changing policy and practice advocating for (1) the classroom as the center of the education system, (2) teaching and learning as the core work of the system, and (3) teachers and learners as the key focus of support.
- The next generation of great educators by advocating for a nationwide scaling up of the Future Educators Association.
- New and emerging leaders by advocating for programs and practices that emphasize leadership through vision, values, principles, and passion.
- Phi Delta Kappa International by advocating for the role of PDK as a "go to" organization of professional expertise and as the organization that leads through its clear mission, vision, and tenets.

During his tenure as the superintendent of Norris School District, Dr. Roy Baker has exemplified the PDK pillar of service. Baker sees his “duty as a school superintendent to provide service to the profession, and to provide leadership in this time of rapid change on the education landscape.” Though Baker is near retirement, he actively supports PDK efforts and encourages the Norris staff to consider involvement. While Baker recognizes people lead busy lives, he believes “PDK offers educators the opportunity for personal growth and development, and for service to the profession.”

Baker joined PDK in the early 1970’s as a young principal at the urging of University of Nebraska-Lincoln professors, Dr. Ward Sybouts and Dr. Ed Kelley. Reflecting upon his involvement in PDK activities, Baker fondly recalls the annual picnic outings to Baker’s Acres. During this time period, Baker says, “The baby boomer generation was in their twenties and moving into leadership positions in teaching and administration. We felt honored to be invited into membership, and felt it was of high importance to network with cutting-edge professional colleagues through such an organization. Throngs of teachers, administrators, and college staff members joined and were regular attendees at meetings. To be a PDK member was to be in with the in crowd in education circles.”

When Baker moved to western Iowa as a superintendent, he transferred his affiliation to the UNO chapter. Upon his return to Nebraska in 1997, Baker resumed his membership in the UNL chapter. He noticed, however, activity attendance had decreased. While Baker candidly acknowledges his own attendance slipped, he has recently been reenergized by the leadership of the PDK executive board and is optimistic about the honorary’s future. Working together he believes we can maximize “the development of teachers and – in focusing on our primary mission – student learning.”

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### **Kathy Bollinger, Education Professor**

Always a teacher at heart, Kathy Bollinger joined PDK to learn from others. Dr. YJ Moses, Professor of Secondary Education and PDK Executive Board member, encouraged her to join, as he has been an active member for many years. “I love ‘teacher talk’ and knowing that many amazing and knowledgeable teachers are members of PDK, I decided that it was a place I would like to be.” Having taught elementary school in the Seventh-Day Adventist School system, for twenty-three years, Kathy, Associate Professor of Education, is passing her knowledge on to pre-service teachers in the Union College Teacher Education Program. “I love watching them bloom into competent teachers, serious about the job of educating and loving young children.”

The unique aspect of Union College’s Teacher Education Program is the emphasis on multi-grade education. More than 80% of Seventh-Day Adventist elementary schools are multi-grade; thus a multi-grade elementary school, housing twenty-eight lively students spanning grades 1-8, resides on the campus. Moses and Bollinger are two state certified teachers whom aid in modeling and assessing the teaching of the UC pre-service candidates. Each college student is involved not only in planning, managing, instructing and assessing, but also in public outreach, which is an integral part of their education program. “We have a thorough, rigorous and very rewarding education program which will enable our students to teach in either public or SDA elementary schools.”

Kathy’s outreach as current vice-president, and past president of Eastern Nebraska Reading Council, took her to Chile in 2008 where she assisted a public school in obtaining textbooks for their student body. She is happy to help others and pleased to be a member of PDK.

### **Alicia Dallman, English Teacher**

Before leaving to fulfill her Fulbright scholarship in Spain, 2009-2010, Dallman was encouraged by Dr. McDonald to become involved in PDK. “Following my graduation from Nebraska Wesleyan University, I wanted to continue to engage in sundry learning communities, professional development, and pedagogical research. PDK is the scaffold supporting these goals and I am honored that the members of PDK have welcomed me. I am looking forward to my future career as an educator and particularly to the way in which PDK will shape my passion and profession.”

In Spain, Alicia works with secondary students and professors within the Global Classrooms curriculum, a program designed to introduce secondary students to current world issues while increasing social, emotional, and linguistic proficiencies. Her students are assigned a distinct country, United Nations committee, and theme to become representatives of their designated countries in a simulation of the United Nations.

Exploring educational systems and strategies in other countries is not new to Dallman. While she is currently serving as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in Cabezón de la Sal, Spain, Dallman has studied abroad and taught English to high school students in Córdoba, Argentina. Additionally, she traveled to Germany, Switzerland, and the Czech Republic with the Kappa Delta Pi—EF Tours Global Awareness Travel Scholarship during the summer of 2009. In each nation, Dallman collaborated with educators from around the globe to discuss and investigate current pedagogical issues. “Interacting with students and teachers in a Berlin bilingual program with my fellow grantees gave me an insider’s view. I had studied dual-bilingual programs in North America and Europe, but had never had first-hand experience in a dual-bilingual program beyond the United States.”

# PDK Launches First Annual Showcase of Teaching and Administration

The first annual “Showcase of Teaching and Administration” was held at Nebraska Wesleyan University on February 3, 2010. The event offered forty-five attendees the chance to listen, discuss, and engage in conversation with innovative educators about unique programs and practices in the Lincoln area. The theme of this first annual event was “Reflection through Best-Practice” and featured five presenters from varying teaching contexts and institutions.

During an opening social time, attendees signed up for two 35 minute sessions with the presenters of their choice. These presenters included: Lindsay Hastings from the NE Human Resources Institute, Rich Koenig from Norris Public Schools, Ann Quinlan from Lincoln Southeast High School, Pam Rasmussen from Raymond Central High School, and Ann Spotanski from Clinton Elementary School. Jessica Rivera, a UNL instructor and PDK Executive Board member, also hosted a session about PDK scholarships for pre-service teachers and future educators.

Hastings discussed her role with the NHRI. This 60-year old organization pairs college students with young leaders in Lincoln Public Schools with the goal of developing positive student leaders. Koenig shared his work with “L-J”, a process to gather, analyze, and utilize individual and overall class data toward enhancing student achievement. Quinlan, a high school English teacher presented, “What happened to ‘What I Did on my Summer Vacation’: Engaging and Encouraging students in the writing process”, a session focusing on prompts and processes to engage students in meaningful writing. Rasmussen, a high school science teacher, presented her work with Project Fulcrum, a collaborative teacher-scientist program that pairs scientists and graduate students with K-12 students to improve math and science education. Spotanski discussed “Quantum Learning”, an engaging teaching and learning methodology that integrates best educational practice into a unified whole.

“This was a great opportunity to meet with fellow educators and see some of the exciting, educational practices being utilized in Lincoln-area schools,” said Ryan Mueller, a UNL chapter PDK member and high school Social Studies teacher at Wahoo Public Schools. “I can’t wait for next year’s event.”

## Scholarship Announcement for Pre-Service Teachers and Future Educators

- PDK Local Scholarship for High School Students, Due April 9, 2010  
[http://pdk.unl.edu/scholarships/hs\\_senior\\_pdk\\_application\\_10.pdf](http://pdk.unl.edu/scholarships/hs_senior_pdk_application_10.pdf)
- PDK Local Scholarship for College Students, Due April 9, 2010  
[http://pdk.unl.edu/scholarships/preservice\\_st\\_pdk\\_application\\_10.pdf](http://pdk.unl.edu/scholarships/preservice_st_pdk_application_10.pdf)
- PDK International Scholarship for High School or College Students, Due March 1, 2010  
<http://www.pdkintl.org/awards/docs/2010ScholAppSelf.pdf>

## Upcoming Activity Schedule



### **Wednesday, March 31, 2010, Mahoney State Park**

5:30-6:00, Social; 6:00-7:30, Dinner and Presentation by Senator Greg Adams, “Race to the Top, the Unicameral, and the Future Steps of Education in Nebraska”

Collaborative Activity with UNO PDK Chapter

### **Wednesday, April 21, 2010, Nebraska State Activities Association by Haymarket Park**

5:30-6:00, Social and Food; 6:00-7:30, Interactive Presentation by Norris School District Administrators and Faculty, “Data Informed Decision Making at Norris – Current Practice and Future Goals”.

### **Monday, June 7, 2010, Concordia University Fallbrooke Campus**

5:00, Initiation; 5:30-6:00, Social and Appetizers; 6:00-7:30, Presentation by PDK International President, Sandra Crowthers, “PDK Initiatives and Research”, awards, new officers, final raffle for Flipcam UltraHD, and presentation of scholarships.