

# UNL Phi Delta Kappa

## International Chapter 0015—Established 1914



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Spring 2011

### 2010-2011

#### Chapter Officers

President, Dr. Mike McDonald

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

International Board Member and Future Educators, Dr. Doug Christiansen

Research Chair, Dr. John Creswell

Secretary, Dr. Carrie Campbell

Treasurer, Ryan Mueller

Outreach and Awards, Dr. Harriet Gould

Programming, Jessica Rivera (Chair), Loretta Sheets, and John Neal

Membership and Scholarships, Dr. Jeewa Moses

Undergraduate Student Representative and Retention, Melissa Casper

Web Content and Communication, Dr. Anastasia McNulty

Website and Listserv, Drew Ramaekers

Newsletter and Publications, Alicia Dallman

#### Membership Benefits

Encourage fellow educators to become members of PDK and participate in Chapter 0015 activities.

For more information, contact Dr. Jeewa Moses, [yjmoses@unl.edu](mailto:yjmoses@unl.edu).

For additional information regarding PDK member benefits, visit: <http://pdk.unl.edu/member>

### International Recognition and Representation for Chapter 0015 Member

Chapter 0015 of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is privileged that one of our members, Dr. Douglas Christensen, was recently elected the International PDK Board. Periodic messages will be shared in our newsletter and the following information is from Doug's communication with our Region B. "During my 47 years as an educator, I have served as a teacher, principal, superintendent, adjunct professor, and state commissioner of education.



I presently serve as a professor of leadership in education and during my 43 years as a Kappan, I have watched the organization grow, mature, and face the challenges that the last couple of decades have brought to all associations. These very challenges are part of the reasons I feel honored to be elected to the PDK International Board of Directors. Since our first meeting, August 2010, the board has focused on PDK's acquisition of Pi Lambda Theta. We are now revising the bylaws and policies for the PDK family of association, which includes PDK, PLT, and the Future Educators Association®. I am excited and inspired by the work of my fellow board members, as well as the PDK International staff. PDK International provides opportunities for connection and collaboration. In particular, PDK must celebrate what is good about public education and be a voice for professional educators. This best serves our children, our country, and our democracy. Please contact me to discuss PDK and how we can serve you—[dougchristensen11@gmail.com](mailto:dougchristensen11@gmail.com)."

### PDK Spans Teaching and Post-“Retirement” Careers for Tim Golden

Former Lincoln Southwest High School science teacher Tim Golden notes that PDK has positively influenced his professional endeavors for nearly 30 years. Since joining PDK in 1983 after being nominated by a Master's program advisor, Golden has employed PDK resources to shape his classrooms as well as the Multiple Intelligences Cubed® on-line testing company he manages: "the [PDK] program has more than met my purposes for joining. As a teacher, coach, and parent, I had little time to be active in PDK but the research that was shared in the PDK journal had some major impacts in how I taught. Now that I have "retired" I look to become much more involved with PDK...as I think it can continue to have a huge impact on education." Via PDK and Multiple Intelligences Cubed®, Golden continues to play a role in educational innovation and progression. Alongside three Multiple Intelligences Cubed® partners, Golden develops assessment tools. One of his assessment tools known as Talent Key is based on Howard Gardner's Multiple Intelligences theory. Talent Key highlights sundry intelligences beyond the conventional verbal linguistic or reading and writing capacities. For the past eight years, Golden and partners have employed Talent Key as a method of studying and identifying student learning styles and preferences: "we have found some very interesting characteristics that we had no idea would come up from the data we have collected. We have tested about 40,000 individuals." This information has then been transferred to teachers and parents who can adapt their pedagogical practices to best meet students' needs. In the process, teachers also engage in self-discovery as they not only determine their personal and professional strengths, but also the most effective means of applying these capacities. Talent Key assessment tools regarding personality and student motivation are also evolving to provide new research. Results are currently being employed to determine how leaders, including teachers, parents, and others invested in educational communities, can best communicate with and motivate students. Golden demonstrates that his ultimate objective still remains discovering how to "...help each student and individual be successful."

## **PDK Connections: Kathy Andreson, International PDK President-Elect**

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Since joining PDK in 1980, International President-Elect Kathleen Andreson has served in all chapter offices, including the Communications/Membership position she currently occupies for PDK Chapter 1608 in New Mexico. After a colleague invited Andreson to explore PDK, she accepted the opportunity to “interact with the best educators,” and has continued to employ PDK resources in her professional endeavors. Andreson refers to at least one of PDK’s three pillars (service, leadership, and research respectively) in her daily interactions with clients seeking support and services. She also views PDK practicality in the realm of encouraging pedagogical novelties: “PDK is building a VOICE that brings the latest research and thinking in education to the broad education audience. Our advocacy for public schools is critical in these times as is advocacy for education around the world. Education is the WAY and we can help light that WAY.” One such innovation includes charter schools, which Andreson advocates. \*On March 30, Kathy will present at Mahoney State Park (refer to next page for details).

While she acknowledges that more research must be done to evaluate charter schools, she also recognizes many advantages these new systems could provide for U.S. students. She notes that “their impact is so far negligible except to the students and parents that have found a niche that will serve them better than a traditional school. In regards to the role of charter schools in Nebraska, Andreson notes “one can only compare the states that have gone through this transition. Charters provide a smaller venue that many students need to succeed.” Andreson plans to share more about her research regarding charter schools when she presents for Chapter 0015 PDK members in March: “hopefully I will provide a brief history of charters, the current landscape, and my work with NM charter schools. An open forum is anticipated where participant questions determine the presentation.” Her knowledge sharing could also have a global facet as she took advantage of an opportunity to travel with a PDK group to China in November 2010 and now has the experience and resources to provide comparisons between U.S. and Chinese schools.

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## **Dr. Larry Dugloch, Administrative Chair in the UNL Education Department**

Current University of Nebraska-Lincoln Administrative Chair in the Department of Education Dr. Larry Dugloch has served in various PDK leadership roles and Nebraska state education positions since the late 1960s when he became a Chapter 0015 member. Dr. Dugloch recalls “it was a great honor to be invited to join PDK when I was ‘growing up’ in the education profession. PDK is a great place to network, improve professional opportunities and learn more about education. I certainly was never disappointed in the results of membership.” As a mentor and guide for educators in all phases of their professional careers, Dr. Dugloch naturally exemplifies the PDK leadership pillar. He also anticipates how PDK can serve rising educators in the field: “I envision PDK playing an important role as a force to unify young educational leaders who are in the early to mid-professional stages of their careers. The research [in the] publications [is] key for learning about trends and issues in education...[particularly] the research articles in the Kappan—it is still one of the finest publications in the country for educational practitioners and professors.” Dr. Dugloch looks to such future educational researchers and leaders to meet the pedagogical challenges facing Nebraska and the nation.

Two of the most looming issues Dr. Dugloch identifies in Nebraska involve cuts in State Aid for the upcoming school year as well as significant curricular and teacher disparities in rural and urban districts. Dr. Dugloch additionally pinpoints how “the intensive amount of testing that is done in the schools, regardless of school size, is undermining the creative side of teaching. It seems that Nebraska schools, as well as all other schools in the U.S., are focused on math, science, and reading and writing to the exclusion of other core subjects such as music, art, P.E., and social studies (all social studies).” Dr. Dugloch also recognizes the detrimental effects of a heavy commercial presence in education: “I am appalled by the serious intrusion of corporate America and the Federal government in state education policy. I believe we need national curriculum guidelines and a set of standards by which we can measure success, but education does not need to be held hostage by the Gates Foundation, the Broad Foundation, and other billionaires who wish to infuse the business model into American Education.”

While acknowledging the many challenges facing future educators, Dr. Dugloch underlines his faith in young pedagogical professionals and their ability to reform state and national educational systems. His students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln repeatedly demonstrate their competencies and foresight via numerous projects, including a public speaking assignment that emphasizes public schools. Dugloch encourages his students to creatively express their pedagogical perspectives in this performance assessment. “The students in one of the classes I teach are required to prepare a speech that they might deliver to their local Chambers of Commerce; a speech that informs the public about how public education contributes to and supports the American Dream.



## PDK Connections Continued: Dr. Larry Dugloch

The students are all graduate students; most of them are teachers in local elementary and secondary schools. They may each define the American Dream as they wish for their speeches. It is inspiring to hear the speeches these students prepare. It gives me hope that education is in the hands of excellent people who know what to do for and with young people.” Support from outstanding leaders like Dugloch and professional learning communities, including PDK, contributes to a dynamic group of dedicated individuals with the ability to positively impact educational policy and practice.

### **Chapter 15 Web News**

Visit <http://pdk.unl.edu/> to view updates regarding PDK Chapter 15 events as well as explore links outlining 2010 PDK Gallup Poll results, education policy and planning resources, and awards available to PDK members.

### **Scholarships**

PDK International offers monetary assistance for sundry school, research, and education projects. For all upcoming deadlines, please explore the following link: <http://www.pdkintl.org/awards/index.htm>

### **Reader Contributions**

If you have an event, current issue in education, or other matter related to PDK that you would like to see in the Fall 2012 newsletter, please send details to [dallman.alicia@gmail.com](mailto:dallman.alicia@gmail.com).

Thank you for your participation and collaboration.

## PDK Participation: Review Leading to Spring 2011 Previews

Attending PDK events not only provides opportunities to explore innovative teaching strategies and discuss contemporary issues in education, but also affords excellent venues for networking and developing learning communities. Elkhorn Public Schools representatives, Associate Superintendent Dr. Cindy Gray, Curriculum Specialist Darin Kelberlau, and English teacher Melissa Simons respectively, led the PDK event “Our Model for Developing Proficiencies in Teachers, Administrators, Students and Building Dialogue with the Educational Community” on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010. PDK Chapter 0015 Treasurer and Social Studies teacher at Wahoo HS, Ryan Mueller attended the event with 38 fellow attendees and gained insights regarding the development of “...common proficiencies that teachers and administrators can use to ultimately improve student performance. Much of the evening focused on using teams (in the model of PLCs) to both examine data and develop proficiencies that all students and teachers can use. Elkhorn uses the talents of their teachers as “Data Coaches” to both lead and help their colleagues develop these proficiencies and understand student data to make appropriate and effective school improvement changes.” The event offered several strategies for ameliorating school environments. Continuing with the theme of improving educational practices, UNL professor and author of “I Am Man” Joe Starita received an award for his commitment to and role in the evolution of education. Upcoming events and opportunities for professional development are outlined in the Spring 2011 Activity Schedule below.

## **2011 Spring Activity Schedule**

**Tuesday, February 1, 2011**, Nebraska Wesleyan University.

Showcase of Teaching, Learning, and Administration by PDK members and invited guests representing five school districts and three universities.\*

\*Event canceled due to weather conditions.

**Wednesday, March 30, 2011**, Mahoney State Park.

Kathy Andreson, PDK International President-Elect will present on “Charter Schools---Strengths and Concerns —Her View as a Professional Evaluator” (Collaborative Activity with the UNO PDK Chapter).

**Mon.-Wed., April 18-20, 2011**, collaborative activities at Norris Public Schools, 3:30-6:30, Mon., workshop and meal; other details TBA. Joan Richardson, Kappan Editor-in-Chief (formerly with the National Staff Development Council and Detroit Free Press), will present on “Transforming Education and the Role of Media” and “Kappan Research” as well as serve as a Scholar in Residence at UNL, Norris, UNO—April 19-20.

**Tuesday, June 7, 2011**, Walton Retreat Center.

Initiation, Awards, Scholarships, Inaugural Joekel PDK Scholarship, and presentation, “PDK---An Overview and My View on National and International Education” presented by Bill Bushaw, PDK Executive Director.

### **To Attend Activities**

Please respond via email to Loretta Sheets: [wsheets@radiks.net](mailto:wsheets@radiks.net).

The social and activity nights generally take place between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.

For additional information and updates, see our website: [pdk.unl.edu](http://pdk.unl.edu). Special thanks to Drew Ramaekers for technology support.

**Executive Board** meetings will be held on January 18 and April 4 from 5:00-6:30 p.m.

### **Newsletter Acknowledgements**

Featured members, including Tim Golden, Kathy Andreson, and Dr. Larry Dugloch offered their personal PDK stories and shared pedagogical insights. PDK Treasurer Ryan Mueller provided a thorough event summary. Undergraduate Student Representative Melissa Casper assisted Alicia Dallman with newsletter editing and updating.

Doug Christensen’s photograph is attributed to the PDK international website managers. A sincere thanks is extended to each of them.