



# Na Ho'olaha I Na Kumu o PDK

*To spread far and wide the news of PDK*

University of Hawaii Chapter 0067  
Founded in Hawaii in 1949

PHI DELTA KAPPA  
Research -- Service -- Leadership

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visit us online at: [www.hawaii.edu/pdknews](http://www.hawaii.edu/pdknews)

December 2009

**PDK NEWSLETTER GOES ONLINE** You are either reading this on-line or seeing a copy printed from the PDK/Hawaii website at: <http://www.hawaii.edu/pdknews/newsletters.html>.

PDK/Hawaii President Loretta Krause gives credit (in her report below) to those who worked to make possible this inaugural, electronic issue **only available online**. Please pass the above URL address to anyone interested in joining PDK.

I have also been assisting compiling news for this issue as well as setting up a new PDK/Hawaii chapter members email listserv that will be used for reporting periodic news and announcement specific to PDK in Hawaii. We based the list on email addresses on file with PDK/International. Please contact me both if you wish to change to another email address or have items for future issues of the newsletter.

*Thuy T. La, PDK/Hawaii Communications Assistant, [thuyla@hawaii.edu](mailto:thuyla@hawaii.edu), ph. 808-956-6216*

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT December 2009**

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the local chapter of the professional education organization, Phi Delta Kappa (PDK). How many of you remember the late 40's and early 50's? In 1949 Hawaii was a territory and the capitol was Iolani Palace. There was no Ala Moana shopping Center in which to roam, only a swamp across the street from Ala Moana Park. Everyone went to Sears to pick up their catalog packages and to ride the first escalator in the State. Life in Hawaii was finally getting back to normal after WW II. To supplement military spending and bring in revenue to the State, pineapple, sugar cane, a growing tourist trade and the Big Five ruled the islands economic development. The Royal Hawaiian Hotel was still the finest hotel in Waikiki, surrounded by a beautiful park that allowed you a view of the ocean. There were no parking meters or traffic on Kalakaua Avenue and everyone ate at the Kau Kau Corner. United Air Lines supplied tourists and our local evening television news. Remember there were no satellites then. Hawaii's TV affiliate in Los Angeles would tape the news, live from New York, and then rush it to the airport for the evening flight to Honolulu. Upon arrival it was rushed to the local TV station and aired somewhere between 10:00 and whenever the flight arrived. No one cared much about what time it came; the important thing was that today's news got here today.



*Loretta Krause  
PDK/Hawaii President 2009-2010*

Hawaii, for a while did become the crossroads of the Pacific. The University of Hawaii enrolled about 6,000 students and had plenty of free parking. The public schools had only two Standard English high schools in Hawaii; McKinley and Roosevelt. In the last 60 years, the PDK/Hawaii chapter has helped to provide educational leadership, service and research opportunities to its membership and has grown with the State. The National Office in Bloomington, Indiana has

provided countless scholarships to students and teachers, rewarded outstanding young educational leaders and funded local ideas with research grants. The success of chapter 0067 is because many educators in Hawaii have participated in local leadership roles. I would like to thank some of our retired professors for their continued support of PDK, such as; Bob Potter, Ralph Stueber, Bob Campbell and Royal Fruehling as well as the late Andrew In and Hugh Everly, both former Deans of the UH Manoa College of Education, who are with us all in spirit. I would also like to recognize our long time treasurer, Randy Kim who has served in leadership roles in this organization continuously for almost 30 years. A similar term has been our "remote" Research Rep John Wilt, formerly of Maui and now in Virginia, who faithfully provides a newsletter column featuring educational research news and issues. Not retired and working as our VP - Programs has been Francis Pottenger right here in Honolulu.

One other very special person needs to be recognized. More than any other, he has gently pushed, pulled, tugged and trained members to move this organization into the world of computers and cyber space. This is a man, who has held almost every office in our chapter. He now is the chapter liaison to the National office. Because of him, our chapter has been used as an example of what can be done, in a creative way, to connect people worldwide with technology to better education. Chapter 0067 owes a debt of gratitude to John Southworth for his continued leadership this organization.

Recently, an effort has been made to encourage younger educators to participate in PDK activities, thus transitioning to the next generation. I would like to commend John Thatcher, principal of Connections Charter School, for taking the responsibility as president for the last two years. During his tenure as president he was a driving force to establish a partnership with Dame Julia Morton-Marr of Canada, to establish the International School Peace Gardens (ISPG) for the children of Hawaii. This program is in more than 3,500 schools in 34 countries. This year Aaron Levine of the College of Education became the Chair of Hawaii School Peace Gardens project. With his committee, a video was created that recorded the students and schools participating in the program. PDK funded the video recording, program and paid for students from all over the state to participate in the Peace Day celebration at the State Capital in September. Read more about this exciting new program in the newsletter. In the last 60 years the US post office has delivered our newsletters to PDK members but no longer. This is the year that the newsletter goes on-line starting with this issue. Thanks to our computer generation members you can visit our web site and learn more about PDK. Please help me thank our long time newsletter editor and format designer Charlie Schuster for his quiet, positive and competent work for the local chapter of PDK. He will continue his work with us from paper to computer. Many thanks to Truc Nguyen our Foundations Rep and School scholarship administrator for leading the way and Thuy La, communications assistant, for building the e-list of members and helping with the on-line newsletter. These two ladies do magical things with a computer. What will this computer generation create? What will come next? Who will be there to help them? You can be sure that Phi Delta Kappa will be there to support, encourage and reward the educators and students of tomorrow as they move into the twenty-second century.

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## **PDK/HAWAII SPONSORS 32nd Annual Meeting of HERA**

January 30, 2010: Hawaii Educational Research Association with support from the Curriculum Research & Development Group and the Hawaii Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa presents the 32nd Annual Conference. The Hawai'i Educational Research Association (HERA) provides a forum for sharing issues, insights, and research findings with educational researchers, administrators, teachers, and others who want to improve educational practice. Through its annual conference, publications, and periodic forums, HERA is a source of information for concerned educators in Hawai'i. HERA also sponsors the Pacific Educational Research Journal, a refereed journal published annually.

Special Conference Registration: PDK/Hawaii Members: \$35, Regular Member Registration \$50, Nonmember \$70, Late Registration: \$100 after Jan 15, 2010

See details at <http://www.hawaii.edu/hera/> or contact the HERA Conference Committee at [herainfo@hawaii.edu](mailto:herainfo@hawaii.edu) or email Truc Nguyen at 808-956-6507.

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## RESEARCH REPORT: THE DROPOUT CONUNDRUM

*John Wilt, Research Representative*

My interest in the school dropout issue was stimulated by a February 6, 2009 News & Record article referred to as "Dropout Rate Rises to 3.31 Percent". The news article is referring to the dropout rate in Guilford County (North Carolina) for the 2007-08 school year. The 3.31 percent mentioned earlier is a total student dropout number of 760 students. The 3.31 percent compares to a 2.99 percent dropout rate for 2006-07. Another News & Record news story (March 13, 2009) then caught my eye: "N.C. Makes Gains in Graduation" where the news story announced that North Carolina is among the top 10 states where high school graduation rates dramatically improved between 2002 and 2006. It appears that making high school more practical for students and linked to technology is responsible for some of the success in the N.C. graduation rate. Also cited in the news story was the following: New Schools Project and Learn and Earn Program. Further detail about N.C. educational programs geared to improve graduation rates can be found at: [www.every1graduates.org/PDFs/StateProgressReport.pdf](http://www.every1graduates.org/PDFs/StateProgressReport.pdf)

As I continued my journey through several Kappans and The New York Times, I discovered the following information:

1. The Obama administration has funded a dropout prevention program to the tune of \$50 million;
2. The Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University in Boston, plus the Alternative Schools Network of Chicago has examined data from the 12 largest states and found that 16 percent of people between the ages of 16 and 24 have dropped out.
3. A "dropout factory" is defined as a school where more students leave school than graduate. Point #1, #2 and #3 were reported in a May 9, 2009 The New York Times editorial which also mentioned that "the state dropout rates are highest in the South, where Georgia (22.1 percent), Florida (20.1 percent), Texas (18.5 percent) and North Carolina (17.6 percent) lead the way."

A July 6, 2009 The New York Times editorial points out the following: "We now know, for example, that about 12 percent of the nation's high schools account for half the country's dropouts generally—and almost three-quarters of minority dropouts."

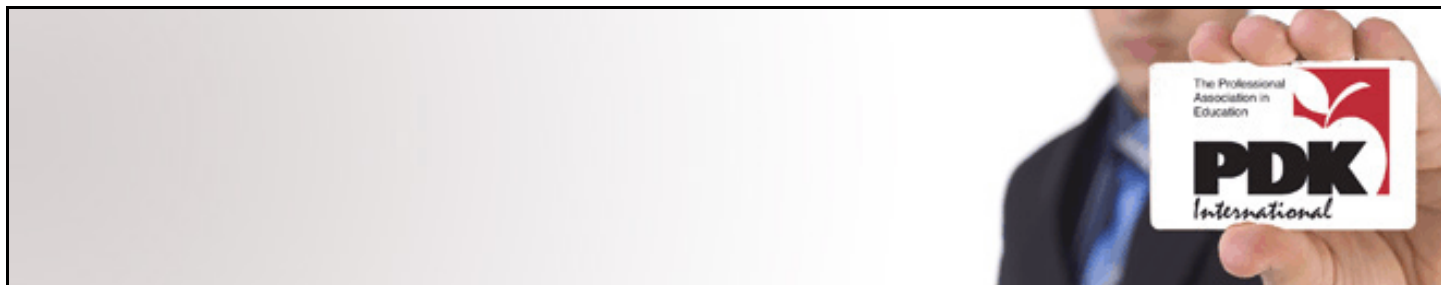
As a final point in this research report, I directed my attention to the September 2009 Kappan where, sure enough, the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools by William J. Bushaw and John A. McNee have included (refer to Pp. 17-18) an analysis of responses about "Dropouts". Here, another group—The Learning First Alliance (umbrella organization for 17 education associations) is urging the federal government to "fund efforts for successful reform strategies including dropout prevention [www.learningfirst.org/news/pressrelease2009/1fafederalrolepressrelease.doc](http://www.learningfirst.org/news/pressrelease2009/1fafederalrolepressrelease.doc)

Readers are urged to review the 41<sup>st</sup> Gallup Poll "Findings" (refer to Pp. 17-18) such as "offering more interesting classes" as a suggestion offered most often by Americans to combat (reduce) the dropout rate. Page 18 of the September 2009 Kappan lists tables 23-26 with further input from Americans about the school dropout problem. Very revealing is table 26 (page 18) with this heading: "Now I am going to read several ideas ... or not effective at all." The Gallup Poll survey offers four categories of '09 National Totals percentages from "allow students to attend high school part time so they can work part time" to "promise students college scholarships if they graduate."

Although there is not time or space to share additional information concerning the "Dropout Conundrum", readers are referred to the following Kappan articles that address some aspect of the school dropout issue:

1. April 2009 Kappan--Pp. 610-611 "Those Oh, So Elusive Graduation Rates" by Gerald W. Bracey. *this is a cautionary note which articulates why it is so difficult to "estimate" graduation/dropout rates*

2. May 2009 Kappan—Pp. 656-659 “The Matter of Dropouts” (Understanding Differences Within Racial and Ethnic Groups Rather Than Between Groups is More Likely to Aid Us in Developing Policies That Can Help Us Overcome the Achievement Gap) by Al Ramirez and Dick Carpenter
3. May 2009 Kappan—Pp. 660-664 “Lost At The Last Minute” (The Saddest Dropout Stories Surely Are Those Students Who Reach Their Senior Year and Still Can't Make it to Graduation) by Jeffrey D. Menzer and Robert L. Hampel
4. September 2009 Kappan—Pp. 38-43 “It Can Be Done, It's Being Done, and Here's How” (All Schools Could Learn Something From the Qualities Shared by Schools That Have Been Successful in Educating Poor and Minority Students to High Levels) by Karen Chenoweth



## **PDK Membership News**

Current members: Consider sharing the following with colleagues who are not members and school administrators who should consider the re-designed PDK Institutional Membership that covers a Primary Contact and four Affiliate members.

PDK membership has a variety of modes for those interested in not only improving education today but preparing and recruiting educators for tomorrow.

Members represent all areas and levels of the profession and include educators from preschool through higher education. Undergraduate students, community leaders, parents, and institutions are also eligible for membership.

### **Individual Memberships** (Main options)

#### **Professional Membership**

- for persons who hold a baccalaureate degree or equivalent standard as determined by the International Board
- are licensed or credentialed as educators or employed in an education-related field or
- are undergraduate education majors who are participating in or have completed student teaching.

**Undergraduate Student Membership** for those who are enrolled in an accredited education program and make application prior to student teaching.

**International Electronic Membership** International Electronic membership is a paper-free category of professional membership with all publications provided electronically and voting conducted online. It is available to individuals who:

- Live outside the United States and do not have an APO/FPO address
- Support the mission and vision of Phi Delta Kappa International
- Demonstrate professional conduct
- Hold a baccalaureate degree or equivalent standard as determined by the International board
- Are licensed or credentialed as educators or employed in an education-related field as identified by the International board

**Associate Membership** for Parents, Community, Business, and Government Leaders

**Institutional Membership** for schools and academic institutions, companies and agencies to provide for multiple individuals in a professional community the opportunity to enjoy the benefits and services of membership.

For further information on any of the above alternatives either:

- Go to the PDK International website for membership: <http://www.pdkintl.org/join/types.htm> to see details of these and other options and alternative modes of joining.
- Contact PDK customer service at [customerservice@pdkintl.org](mailto:customerservice@pdkintl.org) or
- Call 1-800-766-1156 and ask for Customer Service.



The Future Educators Association® (FEA), sponsored by PDK International, is a professional organization that supports more than 20,000 junior high/middle school, high school, and college students who are interested in education-related careers. With more than 1,200 chapters worldwide, FEA exists across the United States, Canada, England, Germany, Italy, Japan, and Turkey.

**Would you like to help extend FEA to more schools in Hawaii?** · Go to the FEA website at <http://www.pdkintl.org/fea/> to see a view and details of FEA programs and starting a chapter.

For local information contact PDK/Hawaii Vice President for Membership John Thatcher at [thatche@aloha.net](mailto:thatche@aloha.net).

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## **TO THE MEMORY OF GERALD W. BRACEY**

*John Wilt - Research Rep*

This research report is dedicated to the memory of one of my educational heroes, Gerald W. Bracey who died unexpectedly on October 20. He was 69. Mr. Bracey authored the "Skeptic's Corner" for the Kappan. According to the December-January Kappan (page 77), a biography of Bracey's work is available at <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/gerald-bracey>

I would like to refer my colleagues to Gerald Bracey's "thoughts as 'research' turns 25" published in the March 2009 Phi Delta Kappan where he addresses the evolution of research and mentions that research cannot be subordinated to ideology! Bracey notes that "research is a value-laden, assumption-ridden operation. It can never be free of either" (March 2009 Kappan page 531). Bracey felt "The situation is dynamic. In assembling a new book, I came to realize how provincial research is in America, not just in education. Pediatricians rarely cite educational researchers. Educational researchers rarely cite pediatricians. Economists writing about education cite virtually no one but other economists. And so on. It's time to see more cross-fertilization." (March 2009 Kappan page 531).

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## **PDK HAWAI'I SCHOOL PEACE GARDENS PEACE DAY HAWAI'I 2009**

*By Aaron J. Levine, Chair, PDK HSPG*

On September 20, 2009, PDK Hawai'i School Peace Gardens (HSPG) provided nine partner schools with the opportunity to share their work toward fostering sustainability and peace education in their schools. The forum was held at the Hawai'i State Capitol as part of Peace Day Hawai'i 2009, and was enthusiastically attended by various educators, organizations, and the general public. Each school presented their unique approach toward planning, sustaining, and using a school peace garden to integrate sustainability and peace education across the curriculum.

Some schools are in the initial planning stages of a peace garden, while others have already developed and integrated the peace garden concept across the entire school curriculum.

The nine participating schools, located on Oahu and the Big Island, were invited to share their work as a follow up to Dame Julia Morton-Marr's visit to Hawai'i in December 2008. Julia is the founder and president of the International Holistic Tourism Education Centre (IHTEC) in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada. She is also the founder of the International School Peace Gardens (ISPG); established in more than 3,500 schools in 34 countries. She was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. She has worked to demonstrate how peace and sustainability are intertwined, and how both peace and sustainability education is essential to the well being of our planet. One purpose for Dame Julia's visit to Hawai'i was to discuss the first steps towards implementing Global Sustainability Education through the International School Peace Gardens (ISPG) program <http://www.ihtec.org/index.php?id=77> . HSPG plans to continue working with these nine schools to help develop a model for supporting schools throughout Hawai'i in their work toward sustainability and peace education.

Mahalo nui loa to Halau Lokahi, Connections, Campbell High, Hawai'i Academy of Arts and Science, Hokulani Elementary, West Hawai'i Explorations Academy, Education Laboratory, Kua o ka La, and Kanu o ka 'Aina schools and the PDK HSPG committee for making Peace Day Hawai'i 2009 a great success! Please view the PDK HSPG PowerPoint that features the nine schools that were featured at Peace Day Hawai'i 2009 is online at [http://www.hawaii.edu/pdknews/documents/HSPG\\_Basics.ppt](http://www.hawaii.edu/pdknews/documents/HSPG_Basics.ppt)

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## **PDK/HAWAII FOUNDATION AND SCHOLARSHIP NEWS**

### **Prospective Educator Scholarship**

The PDK Educational Foundation annually awards scholarships to prospective educators who have a connection to PDK. Eligible students must meet one of the following criteria:

- High school senior intending to major in education who is a member of a Future Educators Association® chapter in good standing
- High school senior intending to major in education who is the child or grandchild of a Kappan in good standing
- High school senior intending to major in education who has one of his/her reference letters written by a Kappan in good standing
- High school senior intending to major in education whose application is selected to represent the local PDK chapter
- An undergraduate member of an FEA or PDK chapter who is enrolled in a college education program

Get more information and download an application at: <http://www.hawaii.edu/pdknews/scholarship.html> and submit to PDK/Hawaii by February 1, 2010.

### **Emerging Leaders**

Keep an eye out for the opening of the Phi Delta Kappa Emerging Leader program! The program recognizes top educators from across the world for their leadership, particularly related to PDK's tenets of service, research, and leadership. The award winners are selected from a competitive class of applicants based on their outstanding professional accomplishments.

Any PDK member in good standing who is age 40 or younger at the time of application is eligible to submit an application, which will be reviewed by a panel of past Emerging Leaders.

The application requires responses to a general information form and short-answer questions. Applicants must also submit a curriculum vita and three letters of recommendation that support the responses to the short-answer questions.

**PHI DELTA KAPPA  
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## PDK EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION DONATION

In 1966 George H. Reavis, a distinguished Ohio educator and longtime Kappan, provided the initial endowment to establish the Phi Delta Kappa Educational Foundation. Since then, the foundation has produced some impressive numbers.

Your gift will support important PDK initiatives such as Prospective Educator Scholarships, PDK's growing network of Future Educators Association® chapters in schools across the world, the Emerging Leaders program, and the PDK/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools. You may also choose to offer your support by becoming a member of the PDK Emerging Leaders Council with an annual donation of \$500 or more or by joining the PDK Leadership Council with an annual donation of \$1,000 or more. Thank you for helping to make a difference in public education!

To see some of the types of scholarships your donation will help cover go to the PDK/Hawaii website at: <http://www.hawaii.edu/pdknews/scholarship.html>

(If you are donating more than \$10, indicate whether you want it designated as a "**Single Donation**" or a "**Chapter Lump Sum Donation**". (Each \$10 increment of Chapter Lump Sum donations counts for an additional member, and boosts the Chapter further towards "20-20" status).

Donor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ (Make out check to *Phi Delta Kappa Foundation*)

Please check where applicable:

\_\_\_\_\_ I designate my donation as a single member donation

\_\_\_\_\_ I designate my donation as Chapter Lump Sum donation

*Submit to:*

*Truc Nguyen, c/o CRDG, University of Hawaii, 1776 University Avenue, Wist Annex 1-101, Honolulu, HI 96822*