



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

March 2010

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Where does the time go? There are only a few months left in this school year to attend PDK programs and activities. Thanks to everyone who has participated in our events so far this year.

Below are brief program reports and news of coming events, for your information.

The first PDK program of the year was Peace Day at the State Capitol.

Two years ago our chapter voted to sponsor an International Peace Gardens School Project with Canada and several other countries. This on-going project has been very successful. This year, 9 schools created displays and presented them at the State of Hawaii Peace Day program, at the Capitol. Our chapter financially sponsored the filming of this event, documented participating schools on 3 islands, and the event itself. Chapter 0067 also gave funds to neighbor island schools for air transportation so students and teachers could participate. Many visitors to the Capitol commented on the fine work presented by the students. Aaron Levine's committee did an outstanding job of filming and organizing the Peace Program. Thanks to all participating Kappans, we now have a record of these events. For more information read the report this newsletter and visit the web site. The second program was The Hawaii Educational Research Association's annual conference, co-sponsored by PDK. This event was an excellent platform to encourage non-PDK members to take advantage of the free 90-day trial membership and to learn more about PDK International. The local PDK recipient of the Willis B. Coale Graduate Scholarship Award is Nel Venzon. He was recognized at the general session and presented a certificate. He was also a speaker at the conference.



There will be 3 programs offered during the spring semester:

The third PDK program is the COE Daeufer Annual Guest Lecture Program, still in the planning stages. It has been co-sponsored by PDK for the last few years. This lecture offers our membership the opportunity to hear invited national and international scholars in education.

The fourth program is a specialty workshop April 23, 2010, on technology training. It will be held for interested administrators, students and teachers in the 9 schools participating in the Peace Gardens Program and for observers interested in learning more about the project.

The final program of the year has the Theme: "*Going Younger*," to emphasize and encourage younger PDK members to take a leadership role in the organization. It will be held on May 27. The program will include a PDK welcome reception, installation of new chapter officers and the initiation of new members. Please RSVP to Loretta by May 15, at lkrause@hawaii.edu. An early meeting time of 4:00-4:30 for the welcome reception will allow members to stop by on their way home from work. The program will begin at 4:30p.m. The meeting place will be announced soon.

The PDK International office has requested a wording change for all state by-laws, which includes language now required by the IRS. There are three new IRS regulations that were up-dated: They are: 1) The organization was formed and operated for charitable purposes; 2) No earnings can be distributed to or benefit the organization's members or officers; 3) If the organization is dissolved, assets must be distributed for one or more exempt purposes. The local chapter of PDK at its Board meeting on February 27, 2010 approved a revision of the by-laws as requested by the National organization. It was moved by Julia Morton-Marr and seconded by John Thatcher to accept the bylaws as revised and distributed with the meeting agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

It is time for our chapter to review scholarships offered by PDK. Two high school scholarships, (See [Scholarship News](#) article) have been selected and forwarded to PDK as our state winners and will be in competition with the final 100 students for national scholarships. The Willis B. Coale Graduate Scholarship for next year, will be announced soon. The Application date for the Emerging Leaders Program is fast approaching. It gives an opportunity for accomplished educational professionals under the age of 40 opportunities and resources to advance their careers. There is more information on the PDK International web site.

Who says active teacher research is not alive and well in our state? We had one Hawaii teacher honored, as one of the top 4 in the nation, for her dissertation on "Research Methods to Improve Fourth Grade Writing Skills." She is Dr. April Gardner, a teacher at Lanikai Charter School. Also honored for her participation in dissertation research work in education, is Thuy La, PDK/Hawaii Communications Assistant working at UH Manoa.

Dame Julia Morton-Marr (a member of our chapter but living in Canada) was awarded an e-certificate, by the Toronto PDK chapter as founder of the International School Peace Gardens and for her workshop presentation. She is the first person to be given this honor by the Toronto PDK. Way to Go, Julia! What a good idea. Our local chapter might think of honoring people for doing outstanding work in their field of endeavor.

John Southworth requested that the Board establish an ad hoc committee to study the feasibility of working with people in our chapter interested in helping establish PDK in Vietnam. This request was approved and will be discussed, at the next board meeting. All interested parties please attend and/or email John with your ideas.

Finally, nominations are being accepted for President, Vice President for Programs, Vice President for membership, and secretary. The National office would like to have the election results and names of officers for next year, by April 15. Please nominate candidates (yourself???) via email with a brief resume and email to Loretta Krause at (lkrause@hawaii.edu) by April 2, 2010. Be sure to get the approval of the nominee before you submit a name. The election will take place at the next board meeting April 15, 2010.

Scholarship Report

*by Thanh Truc T. Nguyen
PDK/Hawaii Scholarships/Foundations Rep*

Willis B. Coale Scholarship

Each year, the PDK/Hawaii Chapter 0067 offers a scholarship in honor of Willis B. Coale to a graduate student in the field of education to further service, research and leadership in education. This year, we are very proud to award the Willis B. Coale scholarship to Nel C. Venzon, Jr.

Nel is a second-year graduate student in the Master of Education in Teaching Program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He earned a Bachelor of



Science in Biology degree at UH Manoa, where he was a Haumana and MARC U-STAR Scholar for four years conducting shrimp gene transfer research at Pacific Biomedical Research Center, and fusion protein research at Cancer Research Center of Hawaii. As a graduate student at Dartmouth Medical School, he and his colleagues showed that the bacterial predator, *Micavibrio aeruginosa*, has the ability to attack biofilms of a wide range of microbes. Nel's scholarly works and contributions to the scientific community were published in the following journals: *Nature*, *Journal of Environmental Health*, *Marine Biology*, *Applied and Environmental Microbiology*, and *Aquaculture*.

Nel taught high school Integrated Mathematics classes at the University Laboratory School from 2006 to 2009. In 2009, Nel was a Knowles Science Teaching Fellowship finalist and joined Mililani High School, where he currently teaches biology as a licensed teacher and is the school's Science Fair Coordinator. This year, he coordinated the first integrated Mililani Middle and High School Science Fair in February, which sponsored 118 student participants, 43 judges, 10 science teachers, and other community members. Nel recently submitted his application to the Ph.D. in Education, Specialization in Curriculum Studies Program at UH Manoa College of Education, where he plans to continue to develop an educational framework model/curriculum that will promote science literacy at the high school level by applying innovative research-based best teaching practices and motivate adolescent learners through inquiry-based scientific investigations that focus on the use of critical thinking, problem solving, and analytical writing skills.

Nel enjoys adventure; he is an avid bodyboarder and ran the Honolulu Marathon twice. Now 28 and a naturalized citizen, Nel was born and raised in the Philippines before immigrating to the United States at the age of 14.

His research interests are in the development of scientific thought in high school students. Recently, he presented some results of his work at the 32nd Annual Conference of the Hawaii Educational Research Association. His poster presentation was entitled, "**The Development of an Educational Framework Model that Promotes Scientific Investigation at the High School Level: A Mix-Methods Study.**" See below for the abstract to that presentation. Congratulations, Mr. Venzon!

Abstract

Scientific Investigation (SI) is taught in many science curricula at various grade levels, especially high school. Teaching and learning of SI are achieved through labs and science projects, which can be further enhanced by implementing inquiry-based heuristic approach augmented by a curriculum that focuses on the use of critical thinking, problem solving, and analytical writing skills. Problems persist, however, in two areas: preparing high school students as science investigators and preparing high school teachers to teach students to conduct scientific investigations. Both deficiencies can be addressed by developing and implementing an educational framework model that promotes scientific investigations at the high school level. Here, a mixed-methods study of the development of an educational framework model that promotes scientific investigations at the high school level is described and analyzed. This model aims to create high school science curricula reflecting the nature of science and promoting teaching and learning of science as a scholarly endeavor for both high school students and their teachers.

For those interested in applying for the upcoming Willis B. Coale Scholarship, please note that the deadline for applications is May 1, 2010. See http://www.hawaii.edu/pdknews/scholarship_Coale.html or email Truc Nguyen at nguyen@hawaii.edu for more details.

Prospective Educator Scholarship

The deadline for the Prospective Educator Scholarship has come and gone! The PDK Educational Foundation annually awards scholarships to prospective educators who have a connection to PDK (see <http://www.pdkintl.org/awards/prospective.htm>). Beginning in 2010, each PDK chapter is able to forward two applications to the national competition. We are proud to select Kara Yoshinaga and Ashley Castro to be the Hawaii applicants in the national competition. The two young ladies, both from the University Laboratory School, are guaranteed at least a \$50 award from PDK/Hawaii, but are now eligible to be awarded a \$1000 scholarship. We eagerly await the news from the national office. Please join us in congratulating Miss Yoshinaga and Miss Castro!

PDK/Hawaii Members Recognized for Outstanding Dissertations

PDK International recently announced winners of the 2009-2010 PDK International Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award program. Dr. April Gardner Taylor, PDK/Hawaii member and teacher at Lanikai Public Charter School in Kailua, received one of three Recognition of Merit awards for her dissertation entitled *The Effects of the Focused Practice Instructional Approach on 4th Grade Writing Scores*.

Her dissertation evaluated the effect of this instructional approach and found that students' overall writing improved, as did each of the four traits in their writing: organization, descriptive details, variety of sentence structure and conventions.

"PDK received more than 40 outstanding entries this year, but Dr. Taylor's research stood out to the review committee," said Dr. William Bushaw, PDK International's executive director. "Research such as this is important because it continues to advance the field of education."

"Research in teaching writing for elementary schools is still a new frontier that requires a commitment from professors, administrators, and teachers," Taylor said, "Classroom time is precious and our research needs to be directed toward efficient as well as effective instruction." An announcement of Taylor's award will be published in the May 2010 issue of *Phi Delta Kappan*.

PDK Hawaii's Communications Support Assistant Dr. Thuy La was another applicant in the Outstanding Dissertation Award Program. Dr. Bushaw stated in relation to her entry *Factors Influencing Educational and Career Choices of Senior High School Students: the Case of Vietnam* "your dissertation summary was rated very highly by members of the review panel...we are confident, based upon the quality of your research, that you will be highly successful in pursuing your professional goals."

"It was a very good experiences for me to participate in this intellectual activity organized by the PDK. I have great opportunities to share my work and to learn about other studies by my peers. I am very inspired by this community of learning" Dr. La said.



PDK Membership News

Welcome to all those who have just joined PDK since the last newsletter was posted. We're pleased to have you become part of the PDK/Hawaii Ohana (family)!

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 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.

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Peace Garden Workshop

by Aaron Levine

Phi Delta Kappa Hawaii School Peace Gardens (PDK/HSPG) continues efforts to expand peace and sustainability education throughout Hawaii. PDK/HSPG will host a special peace garden workshop for our charter member schools on Friday, April 23, 2010. Schools on Oahu and the Big Island will come together in person and online. Member schools will learn about using free teleconferencing software to facilitate research and collaboration. The workshop will provide students and faculty with opportunities to share what they have been doing to integrate peace and sustainability education in their schools. Participants will also have the opportunity to collaborate with committee members, including Dame Julia Morton-Marr with the International School Peace Gardens (ISPG). The workshop will serve as a pilot model for future peace garden workshops that PDK/HSPG plans to offer. For more information about PDK/HSPG, please contact committee chair Aaron Levine (alevine@hawaii.edu).

Two New Stories

John Wilt - Research Rep

I have located two educational news stories that should be of great interest to educators. The first news item mentions a "standards" movement that is backed by up to \$350 million dollar pledge from U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan who wants to develop national reading and math standards. The second news item concerns the release of a Center for Educational Report charter school "report card."

A March 2, 2010 Baltimore Sun story has reported that Maryland and 45 other states have agreed to develop a common set of academic standards for students in kindergarten through 12th grade. According to The Baltimore Sun story: "Teachers unions and local superintendents now embrace the idea of common standards. 'I look at it from a practical perspective', said Baltimore County Superintendent Joe A. Hairston. 'It seems to me if a child moves from Maryland to Oklahoma, reading must still be one of the things they must learn.'" The following is a list of states that do not agree with the concept of common standards: Alaska, South Carolina, Missouri and Texas.

According to a recent report published by The Center for Education Report, 41 U.S. states and federal districts that operate charter schools earned a B or higher on the center's annual report card. It is noteworthy that Education Secretary Arne Duncan has been pushing states to eliminate caps on the number of charters that they operate. Secretary Duncan is offering \$5 billion from the Race to the Top fund to promote charter schools and eliminate charter school caps. I was quite interested to learn that in 1991, Minnesota became the first state to pass a charter school law. Here are the three principles of Minnesota's charter law: (1) people should have an opportunity to carry out their dreams ... (2) as long as they're willing to be responsible for results and (3) the state believes in the freedom to create new kinds of public schools that are open to all kids and receive greater flexibility in exchange for greater accountability. The state and federal district report card (for charter schools) looks like this:

A grade--District of Columbia, Minnesota, California

B grade--Utah, Arizona, New York, Michigan, Indiana, Colorado, Florida Missouri, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Mexico

C grade--Wisconsin, Georgia, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, Idaho, Louisiana, Nevada

D grade--Texas, Oklahoma, North Carolina, Illinois, Tennessee, New Hampshire, Arkansas, Maryland, Rhode Island, Alaska, Connecticut, Hawaii, Wyoming

F grade--Kansas, Virginia, Iowa, Mississippi

And here is a final item that I hope you find interesting reading: The New York Times March 7, 2010 story "Building a Better Teacher" by Elizabeth Green. The article is about Doug Lemov who realizes he has a problem, discussion of the importance (and limitations of) data-driven ideas and a key question: "What makes a good teacher?"

**PHI DELTA KAPPA
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII CHAPTER 067
Board & Liaisons 2009-2010**

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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: _____

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Please check where applicable:

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Submit to:

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