

# 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*



### 2007-08 PDK-USC GOVERNING BOARD

<b>President</b>	<i>Dr. Alexis Sheehy</i>
<b>VP Membership</b>	<i>Lisa Regan</i>
<b>VP Programs</b>	<i>Dr. Janeane Dimpel</i>
<b>VP Projects</b>	<i>Dr. Bill Wright</i>
<b>VP Projects</b>	<i>Dr. Nick Nichols</i>
<b>VP Projects</b>	<i>Dr. Barbara Shannon</i>
<b>VP Projects</b>	<i>Victor Gonzalez</i>
<b>Secretary</b>	<i>Dr. Patricia Whitman</i>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<i>Dr. Ed Robillard</i>
<b>Historian</b>	<i>Dr. Paul Sparks</i>
<b>Research</b>	<i>Gizelle Monarres</i>
<b>Foundations</b>	<i>Teresa M. Miller</i>

**PDK-USC Web Site**  
<http://www.pdk-usc.org>

**Advisor**  
*Dr. Marian Fukuda*

**Faculty Sponsor**  
*Dr. Melora Sundt*

**Newsletter Editor**  
*Dr. Barbara Shannon*

*Join us for our PDK-USC Dinner Meeting*  
**“Supporting High-Quality Public Education  
through Leadership, Research, and Service”**

**Friday, November 2, 2007 at 6:00 p.m.**  
**Vineyard Room: Davidson Conference Center**

**Guest Speaker: Jan Perry**  
Councilwoman of the Ninth District

Inspiration: Honoring three of our most faithful, long-time members  
*To RSVP, see page 3*

## Meet the Speaker... Councilwoman Jan Perry



*In her second term as Councilwoman of the Ninth District, Jan Perry well understands the unique needs of her diverse constituency. Among her priorities are greater access to basic city services, expansion of after-school programs for kids, increasing green space, and fostering economic growth in all parts of the district. Ms. Perry continues to work with the community to bring millions of dollars in capital improvements to parks and recreation centers, to increase public safety, and to achieve*

*environmental justice for all. Councilwoman Perry has worked aggressively to provide year-round shelter for the homeless.*

*She has successfully “greened” eight parks, worked with Nike and the US Soccer Foundation to bring a state-of-the-art soccer field made of recycled materials to South Los Angeles providing soccer in an environmentally-friendly place for the children in the Ninth District. Creating opportunities for students, their families, and seniors to participate in cultural and learning activities remains a top priority for Councilwoman Perry.*

*Councilwoman Perry serves as the Chair of the Energy and the Environment Committee and the Chair of the Ad Hoc Homeless Committee. She is Vice Chair of the Arts, Parks, Health and Aging Committee and the Ad Hoc Committee on Recovering Energy, Natural Resources, and Economic Benefit from Waste for LA. She also serves as the Assistant Pro Tempore for the Los Angeles City Council, the first African-American woman to hold this position in the history of the city.*

*Ms. Perry moved to Los Angeles in 1974. She earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Journalism, Cum Laude and a Master’s in Public Administration from the University of Southern California. In addition, she earned a certificate in Litigation from the University of California, Los Angeles Extension.*

# Member Spotlight



Congratulations to the new Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services in Redondo Beach Unified School District, Dr. Annette Alpern.

Annette began her career in education as a middle and high school science and ELD teacher. She moved on to become an assistant principal at two different schools in the Torrance Unified School District and then a high school principal at North High School in Torrance. In her new role as Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services, Annette is currently working on including brain-based research reading and language programs in the elementary and middle schools, Spanish instruction in kindergarten and first grade (Redondo Beach Unified School District has fewer than 10% English Learners), exploring the implementation of International Baccalaureate at the middle and high school levels and designing cohesive and comprehensive K-12 visual and performing arts education for all students.

In addition, Annette works with the directors of a nationally accredited pre-school program and an adult school that serves three Beach City communities. She finds that working with and watching individuals engage in learning from the toddler through adult years to be an absolutely amazing experience.

**Share your Member Spotlight Information!** We would like to hear what you are doing, especially in leadership, research, and service. Send your exciting news to: **Barbara Shannon**, PDK-USC Newsletter Editor, at [bshannon@westridge.org](mailto:bshannon@westridge.org).

**F**rom PDK-USC President, Alexis Sheehy:

The 39<sup>th</sup> annual PDK/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools has been released. The poll has changed over the 39 years. It began as an effort to inform educators. While it continues to perform that role, it has come to serve as a source of information for those who shape education policy. The database that has accumulated over 39 years of polling chronicles the growth and changes in K-12 schooling since the late 1960s. Since 2003 the PDK/Gallup Poll has traced the evolving public response to NCLB. Here are two of the findings:

It seems fair to say that, as the public knowledge of NCLB grows, the public's view of NCLB is becoming less and less favorable. This confirms a prediction we made in 2003.

It seems fair to say that the shift from blaming the schools to blaming the law for large numbers of failures means that growing familiarity with NCLB has led to growing disapproval. This shift is important because a law demanding accountability is unlikely to succeed if the public does not blame failures on the schools.

The remainder of the findings can be found in the [Kappan](#) or on line at <http://www.pdkintl.org>.



VP Membership **Lisa Regan** welcomes new PDK-USC initiates (from right to left) Shelley Jones and Karen-Lyn Saysay and President **Alexis Sheehy**.



PDK-USC needs you!  
Bring a friend to the next dinner meeting.  
Consider running for an office for 2008-09.

## Save The Date!!!

PDK-USC Dinner Meeting @The Vineyard Room  
(Located in the Davidson Conference Center)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2007 at 6:00 p.m.

**DINNER RESERVATION DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26<sup>th</sup>.**

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

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

Meal Choice: \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken    \_\_\_\_\_ Fish    \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian

Mail your check (made payable to PDK-USC Chapter) for **\$36.00\*** per person (Includes parking) with this form. It must arrive before Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup> to:

PDK-USC Chapter  
c/o Nick Nichols  
24070 Eagle Mountain St.  
West Hills, CA 91304

\*This amount does include parking. Parking is available through Gate #4 off of Jefferson Street.  
**If it is after the deadline, it may not be too late to get your dinner added on. Please call or email Nick at (818) 456-9732 or nick.nichols@lausd.net**

## 2007-08 USC Phi Delta Kappa CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### October

**18-20** – PDK International Conference  
Vancouver, British Columbia

### November

**2** - **PDK-USC Dinner Meeting**  
Davidson Conference Center 6:00 p.m.  
**15** – PDK-USC Board Meeting, WPH 900, 5:30 p.m.

### January

**25** - **PDK-USC Stoops Lecture Dinner Meeting**  
Davidson Conference Center, 6:00 p.m.  
**31**- PDK-USC Board Meeting, WPH 900, 5:30 p.m.

### MARCH

**7** – **PDK-USC Dinner Meeting**  
Davidson Conference Center 6:00 p.m.  
**13** – PDK-USC Board Meeting, WPH 900, 5:30 p.m.

### May

**2** – **PDK-USC Dinner and Awards Meeting**  
Davidson Conference Center 6:00 p.m.

### JUNE

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

Chapter Dinner meetings are in Bold.  
Everyone is welcome at the Board Meetings.  
A map of 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/)

## PDK INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

PDK supports educators who are pursuing graduate degrees in education through several fellowships and awards made available through the Phi Delta Kappa Educational Foundation and its endowed scholarship program.

**Prospective Educator Scholarships** are for high school seniors intending to major in education and undergraduate members of PDK who are enrolled in a college education program. The submission deadline is February 1.

**Past President Emory Stoops Scholarship** is one of the PDK Scholarship Grants for Prospective Educators. **Dr. Emery Stoops**, international PDK president from 1954-56 and PDK-USC Past President, established this award in 1997 as part of the PDK Educational Foundation. The winner will be chosen by the committee that chooses the other recipients of PDK's Prospective Educator Scholarships, with preference for the scholarship being given to a student who intends to go to the University of Southern California. Deadline is February 1.

**Gerald Howard Read International Travel Scholarships** help offset the cost of traveling through the PDK International Travel Program. Gerald H. Read, a long-time member and PDK benefactor, probably is best known for enabling thousands of Kappans to learn firsthand about education systems around the world. He organized the PDK International Travel Program, leading the first group of Kappans to the Soviet Union in 1961. In 1980 he and his wife, Vicki, established an endowment with the PDK Educational Foundation that provides scholarships for Kappans to participate in the travel program. He also served on PDK's Commission on International Education from 1958 to 1968. Deadlines precede each program.

**R. Gerald Melton Scholarship** is for doctoral study in education administration. Deadline is May 15.

**Ruey H. Witten Fellowship** is for post-baccalaureate study in music education. Deadline is June 1.

**Graduate Fellowships in Educational Leadership** are for members who will be full-time graduate students from 1 July 2007 through 30 June 2008. Deadline is June 1. ↗

The ratification vote of PDK-USC Chapter by-laws will take place at our November dinner meeting. A copy of the new by-laws is available at [www.pdk-usc.org](http://www.pdk-usc.org).

*The PDK-USC Kappan*  
Phi Delta Kappa International Chapter #0029  
USC Rossier School of Education  
WPH 502A  
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0031

*Address Correction Requested*