



Newsletter
Spring 2006

Phi Delta Kappa

Chapter Scholarship Awarded!

While we received many quality entries this year, we could only choose two. The two high school seniors who will receive \$100 scholarships from our chapter are:

Jenna Jaynes from Robinson High School
and Noelle Renfro from Lorena High School.

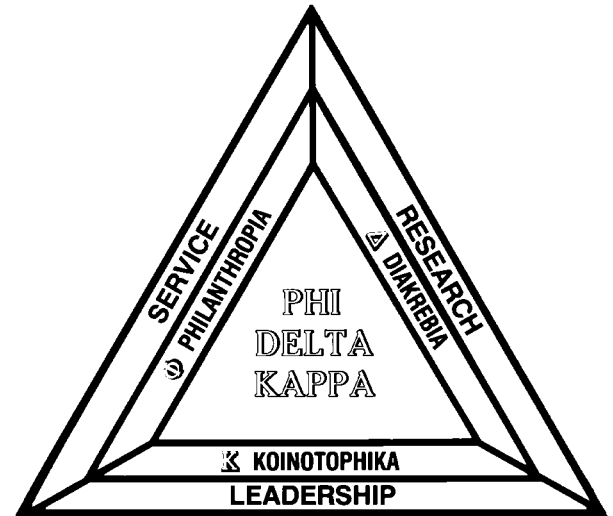
The scholarship recipients will be reading their essays at the April 11 Initiation and receiving their award. Please join us for the reading and to congratulate them for this achievement.

PDK Chapter 0184 Update

On February 21, 2006 the Baylor PDK Chapter held its most recent meeting with the Region 12 Educational Service Center hosting the event. The session "Responding to the 37th Annual PDK Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward Public Schools" continued our theme of *Success for All Students and All Educators: Addressing the Achievement Gap in Central Texas*. After a brief overview of the PDK Gallup Poll by Trena Wilkerson, a guest panel shared their reactions and thoughts related to the poll's results. Serving as panel members were Dr. Robert Cloud, Baylor University; Brett Farnum, McLennan County Youth Collaboration; Alfredo Loredo, Waco ISD; and Maggie McCarty, Rapport Foundation. Each respondent shared important insights into public education, issues, possible solutions, and directions for the future in public education from their respective roles in education. Midway ISD's Austin Sterling facilitated the discussion that followed. Those attending asked questions of the panel members and offered ideas. It was an excellent time of dialogue around key issues in education. Thank you to all who participated on the panel and to those who attended.

Baylor University Chapter 0184

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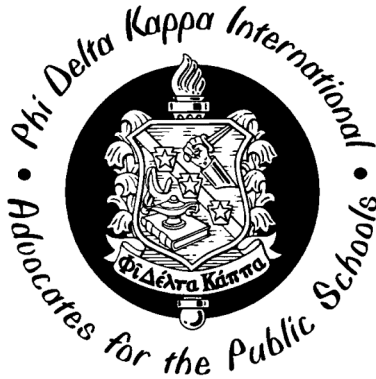
Our Chapter also celebrated the 100th anniversary of the International PDK organization with a delicious cake topped with an icing version of the new PDK logo. Thank you to Edith Davis for decorating to support the celebration, Joan Berry for assisting with set-up, and to Jane Curry for serving the cake.

I would like to invite you to our final meeting of the 05-06 year on April 11 at 6 p.m. at Baylor University in Draper 211. We will close out our year celebrating the successes of our students and educators across the area with recognition of our scholarship recipients, officer induction, new member initiation, and other activities. Thank you for your participation and support in the Chapter this year. It has been a pleasure serving you.

Trena Wilkerson
VP - Programs, Baylor PDK Chapter

Board Meeting Report

Phi Delta Kappa International
Minutes of the Baylor Chapter #0184
Meeting
November 15, 2005



The Baylor Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa had the meeting and initiation on November 15, 2005, on the Baylor Campus in room 211 of the Draper Building with ten members and guest present. The President, Colleen Eddy, and the Vice-President for Membership, Edith Davis, led the orientation for the initiate. The orientation took place at 5:30 and the meeting began at 6:00. The meeting began with the new member initiation of Milagro Mullet. Colleen Eddy led the initiation with Edith Davis, Shannon Trimble, Laurie Jones and Jane Curry assisting. The members welcomed Milagro Mullet into our chapter. Our chapter business began with a report by Shannon Trimble and Edith Davis on the success of the PDK Walk for Education. Edith reported on how communication about the walk was taken to the teachers and that the Dean of the School of Education provided the money for the flyers. She stated that we could build on what we have learned from this experience to do better next year. Framed certificates were presented to Edith and Shannon for their work on the project. Dr. Trena Wilkerson, PDK Chapter/Member Liaison, Region C, reported on the books for Education in Louisiana-Katrina Victims Project. The books are housed at the Learning Resource Center at Baylor until they can be shipped in January to schools in Louisiana. Our President reminded the members to contribute to our

PDK Foundation and to remind high school seniors to register for our chapter scholarships which if they are selected; they would compete at the national level. Secretary, Jane Curry, read the minutes of the September 27th meeting. Corrections were made to the minutes.

The meeting continued with the program, Success for All Children, Closing the Achievement Gap in Central Texas. Dr. Wilkerson informed us of the PDK Forum for Discussion and Action that was held on June 28, 2005, at Baylor. Parents, community leaders, project leaders, legislators, educators from MCC, TSTC, and Baylor and personnel from schools, churches, the Rapport Foundation, and Mission Waco were invited to attend. The individuals from different occupations were invited because the goal of closing the achievement gap is seen as one that needs the cooperation of everyone. Dr. Wilkerson led the members in an interesting discussion of the following questions: what the achievement gap, is there an achievement gap, what are the contributing factors to the gap, are there barriers in closing the achievement gap, and what is my role in closing the achievement gap. All those in attendance received a book bag from the SEDL. You can view all the research that has been written about this topic by going to the [web site, WWW.sedl.org/scimast/gap/](http://www.sedl.org/scimast/gap/). The meeting was closed with refreshments.

Jane Curry, Secretary

What are the crossroads of your interests in qualitative research?

Hello Everyone,

Here are some of my thoughts about qualitative and quantitative research.

What are the crossroads of your interests in qualitative research?

My interests in qualitative research are many. I am looking for new tools to delve deeper into the knowledge of this world. I believe that qualitative research may just be one of the tools that I have been seeking.

A good researcher or scientist seeks the truth about a phenomenon. We want to know the answer to how something happens as well as why something happens. The crossroad for me is that the answers to the how and why questions are derived from two distinct methods. In looking for ways to answer the how questions, which are solved by quantitative research methods, I must change my thinking to answer the why questions, which are primarily based on qualitative research methods.

Basically, the qualitative research method is a stand alone methodology even though there are those that suggest differently. For example, Gray Shank attempts to suggest that qualitative research is at a crossroad and needs to be strengthened by Semiotic theory to address some of our unanswered "why" questions. However, Semiotic theory may or may not be the answer to revitalizing qualitative research.

Qualitative research also has been sometimes made into a hybrid quantitative research method. However, qualitative research does not need to mimic quantitative research in order to justify its value to the scientific community. It is imperative that the qualitative research moves along its own path of development. Just as quantitative research must move along its path. Together, they will converge to solve some of our more complex problems. If qualitative research were the same as quantitative research we would not need it. Just as man needs a woman in order to create new life;

similarly, we need qualitative and quantitative research in order to bring new life to our scientific research community and eventually the world.

We must also understand that qualitative and quantitative research are both evolving and neither one is pure and absolute. For some of our more complex and pressing problems, we will need both forms of research working together. A symbiotic relationship exists between qualitative and quantitative research. They both will need each other in order to move our scientific community to the next level of global intelligence.

When there is a truth, only the use of qualitative and quantitative research will enable us to come close to discovering the multi dimensions of that truth. Both qualitative and quantitative researches have weaknesses and strengths. Strengths handled properly will cover both research weaknesses. We have seen how the world started off with the microscope representing quantitative research and how we discover the microorganisms that live among us. We then discover the electron microscope, which represents qualitative research, and further discover the cell and its nuclei. The stronger instruments enable us to discover the atom and its electrons. Truth has always been there; we are now able to see it with the right tools.

We all view the truth and the world "through a glass darkly" and this fact does not diminish the truth. Both qualitative and quantitative research view the truth "through a glass darkly" and both are needed in order to view the truth and all its many facets. I look forward to the fascinating journey of learning more about qualitative research and I am excited about the crossroads it will bring me to in my academic career.

Take care,

Edith G. Davis
Baylor University
PDK VP of Membership

"A good researcher or scientist seeks the truth about a phenomenon"



Baylor University Chapter 0184

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Calendar / Upcoming Events

April 11, 2006 – PDK Meeting

- Includes - initiation, inducting of officers, and recognition of scholarship recipients!
- Location - Math Lab which is Draper 211 at 6:00 pm for members and 5:30 for our new members

We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://www3.baylor.edu/PDK>

PDK Walk October 21, 2006

The Third Annual Walk for Education will coincide with the 2006 PDK Summit on Public Education in Washington, D.C. You can join us for the Summit and Walk or you can join a Walk closer to home. It is a pleasant way to spend a couple of hours with your colleagues, friends, family, and prospective educators from your local Future Educators Association (FEA) club.

Teams can specify one local, nonprofit, educational organization to receive 60% of the funds raised by that team. (The remaining 40% will benefit the programs of the PDK Educational Foundation at the local, state/province, national, and international level and will defray expenses.) Please print a copy of the PDK Chapter Team Registration Form or the FEA Chapter Team Registration Form and mail or fax it to PDK International as shown so that the local educational organization of your choice receives its portion of the funds raised.

Of course teams and walkers can raise money solely for the benefit of the students, teachers, and other educators served by the programs sustained by the PDK Educational Foundation.

There may already be a team formed in your area. Please check the local walk locator to find contact information for any walk events scheduled in your area.

As advocates for education, we want to grab the attention of the public worldwide and raise funds for education. As the founder of the PDK Educational Foundation, George H. Reavis, once said, "Public policy in education can be no better than the public's understanding of education and the educative process."

Let's share the emerging and unmet needs within education with the rest of the world.

Invite a colleague to join PDK!

Hello Everybody,

I would like to encourage each and every one of you to invite potential candidates to join PDK. PDK is a great organization and it will enrich their lives. If you're potential candidate has any questions please feel free to contact me. The following is my contact information.

Baylor office (254) 710-7594
Edith_Davis@baylor.edu

Take care,

Edith Davis
Baylor University
PDK VP of Membership

