



PDK NEWS



April 2007

BRIDGEWATER STATE COLLEGE PHI DELTA KAPPA CHAPTER 1580

Vol. 8 No. 4

President's Corner

Dear Fellow Kappans,

Thank you to all who attended our March meeting. I hope you will agree that it was inspiring to hear from our keynote speaker, Dr. Dana Mohler-Faria. If you missed the meeting, please be sure to read Joseph Oliveri's great editorial on page 2 of this newsletter.

Our May 1st meeting will be another special event. At that time we will announce the scholarship winner for the Bridgewater State College Chapter of PDK. We will also be initiating new chapter members. Please mark your calendars and be sure to join us on Tuesday, May 1st at 5:30 pm at the Fireside Grille. What a great way to celebrate May Day!

This May meeting will be the last general session for our chapter for this academic year. However, the executive board will continue to meet to plan the 10th anniversary celebration as well as next year's meeting agendas. Please feel free to contact us and make recommendations for guest speakers and/or discussion topics. Also, if you have conducted some interesting research please remember to consider presenting it to our group. You can always contact our chapter PDK by emailing us at PDKChapter@bridgew.edu

I hope to see you on May Day!

Sincerely,
Jane M. Souza

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Membership Report

PDK Milestones

Phi Delta Kappa and Kappans have much to celebrate this year. PDK is celebrating its 100th Anniversary this year! There are over 650 chapters in the United States with a membership over 500,000.

Today, as it has for the past century, PDK strives to prepare the next generation of educators as well as to serve practicing teachers, administrators, college educators, and those concerned about public education through a wide range of innovative initiatives based on visionary *leadership*, relevant *research*, and dedicated *service*.

The Bridgewater State College Chapter is also celebrating a milestone – our Ten Year Anniversary. The committee is hard at work with celebration plans for this September. Our members have also had their share of milestones with PDK. Please join me in congratulating the following members for their commitment to our organization and to public education.

- 5 years: Geraldine Lucas
Carol Pelletier
- 10 years: Betty A. Calise
Dorothea P. Coderre
Ruth A. Fitzpatrick
Ruth Gilbert-Whitner
MaryAnn McKinnon
Mary Lou Thornburg
Bonnie Lee Troupe
Nancy L. Witherell
- 20 years: Barbara Jane Bautz
- 30 years: John D. Marvelle

Thank you for your continued support to the chapter and PDK! They certainly embody the beliefs that all Kappans follow.

Lynn Ingram, V.P. Membership

Dr. Dana Mohler-Faria: *On Leadership*

Dr. Dana Mohler-Faria's calm demeanor and soft voice belies the crucial and compelling message he shared with PDK members and guests at the March 1 meeting in Middleboro. His message on leadership reflects his position as President of Bridgewater State College and his appointment to an educational forum assembled by Governor Deval Patrick to study the state of education in Massachusetts. Dr. Mohler-Faria's (or Dana as he prefers to be called) assessment of our system mirrors that of the nation as a whole. His vision that our young people are falling further behind their counterparts in the rest of the world is at once dispirited and hopeful.

In an age that has witnessed a shrinking global environment and an intense competition for jobs, our educators need a new, even radical, paradigm shift in our approach to education. It will be a hard pill to swallow, but change is never easy. The opposite is complacency and that is clearly not giving our students the competitive edge that we once almost universally enjoyed. As an example, Dana cited that 99% of the incoming freshman class at BSC had MCAS scores in the "proficient" range, yet many still lacked writing and mathematical skills that once distinguished Massachusetts's children as the best and the brightest.

It is a reasonable assumption, therefore, to conclude that our current methodology is failing. Dana envisions Governor Patrick as a symbolic visionary in creating radical changes that will address the existing attitude that many of our students are failing or being left behind because they do not want to learn. With few exceptions, all students want to learn. It is incumbent on educators to develop skills and methods of instruction that will reach those children who lack the incentive and tools to compete in a world that is rapidly changing. Programs of encouragement, engagement and enlightenment that are currently being discussed by educators and businessmen will be presented to the governor as early as June of this year. Dana forecasts that the efforts of the committee he is working on will bolster the governor's presentation when he approaches the

legislature to appropriate public funds to implement his program. In keeping with this attitude, Dana has recommended that the appointment of officials at the DOE be delayed while support of current programs that are not producing desirable results be terminated.

The idea is radical to be sure, but it is also in keeping with the same spirit that Governor Patrick brings to the Corner Office. The onus of past failures need not be addressed further. It is exactly the kind of change that Dana is advocating. It is time to move forward. New pathways that would create a Renaissance of instruction, and hence learning, will restore credibility to our dysfunctional system. Dana's message is more about hope and inspiration than not. It is our duty as educators to embrace recommendations that Dana and the governor's committee are promulgating and be a part of the solution.

Editorial Submitted by
Joseph Oliveri



PDK Executive Board members with Dr. Dana Mohler-Faria at the March 1, 2007 PDK meeting. Seated from left: Debra Lee Stone, Jane Souza, Kimberlee Scott. Standing from left: Jennifer Just, Dr. Mohler-Faria, Mary Ann McKinnon, Lynn Ingram

Upcoming Meetings*

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

All meetings are held at the Fireside Restaurant in Middleboro (unless otherwise noted) and begin with a networking session at 5:30 P.M.

And, don't forget September 20, 2007 for our 10th anniversary celebration at BSC!

*schedule subject to change

The World According to Mr. Rogers

Often when you think you're at the end of something, you're at the beginning of something else. I've felt that many times. My hope for all of us is that "the miles we go before we sleep" will be filled with all the feelings that come from deep caring – delight, sadness, joy wisdom – and that in all the endings of our life, we will be able to see new beginnings.

-- *Fred Rogers*

Bridgewater Phi Delta Kappa

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PDK Beliefs:

- We believe in publicly supported education.
- We believe that high-quality education for all is essential to the development and maintenance of a democratic way of life.
- We believe in upholding the ethical ideals of leadership, research, and service.
- We believe that leadership should be nurtured and developed.
- We believe that a dynamic organization incorporates the needs of its members, is responsive to the environment and trends, and changes as needed.
- We believe that diversity strengthens our association.

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Articles submitted for consideration should be e-mailed to the editor :

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