



PDK NEWS



December 2007

BRIDGEWATER STATE COLLEGE PHI DELTA KAPPA CHAPTER 1580

Vol. 9 No. 2

President's Corner

Dear Fellow Kappans,

If you missed the last PDK meeting on October 24th, you missed a wonderful presentation by Dr. Gloria Moran on the subject of her travels and service Russia. Fortunately, PDK Chapter historian Joe Oliveri used his considerable writing skills to detail her lecture/slide show. I hope you will take a few moments to read his article on page two.

Gloria's presentation fit very nicely into this year's chapter theme of "Focus on Service." Our remaining meetings for 2007/2008 will each have service components. On December 4th we are requesting non-perishable food items, toiletries, or small gift items for *The Carolina Hill Shelter for Women and Children* in Marshfield. Your donations would be greatly appreciated.

The February 12th meeting will feature a community service learning presentation by Georgia Clancy, a 26-year veteran teacher and member of the *Board of Education Community Service Learning Advisory Council*.

The final meeting scheduled for May 8, 2008 will include the induction of new chapter members as well as the awarding of two PDK Chapter \$300 scholarships.

I hope you will mark your calendars for our next meetings on Dec. 4th, February 12th, and May 8th. It is always a pleasure to spend time with all of you! See you soon.

Jane

Jane Souza, Ph.D. ❖

December Meeting

PDK chapter 1580 has kicked off the academic year in style with two fantastic meetings held already—our Tenth Anniversary Celebration held at BSC in September, and our regular meeting held in October. Normally we would not meet again until the spring semester, but your executive board thought that was too much time between meetings (we'd miss you too much!) — so we're holding a special third meeting this semester. Now, for the program...in keeping with this year's theme, "Focus on Service", we would like to devote our December meeting to the collection of donations for the disadvantaged. Our own PDK Treasurer, Deb Stone, suggested we consider the Carolina Hill Transitional Shelter for Women and Children in Marshfield—which the Board subsequently approved. The Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless suggests donating the following items: new toys, blankets, toiletries and new warm clothing for children. Please consider bringing one of these donations to our December meeting.

Now for the FUN part. The Board thought that a "Yankee Swap" between members might also be fun. However, BEWARE, this is not meant to be your usual "buy a small, useless gift and trade it for a different small, useless gift" deal. We're suggesting a *true* YANKEE swap. Everyone knows a *real* Yankee is too cheap to *buy* a gift—so this time it's OK to RE-Gift. Take advantage of this rare opportunity to unload one of those hideous gifts from Christmases past—or one of the many thousands of coffee mugs cluttering up your office. This is your chance to be politically incorrect and no one will care! The "wild and crazier" the better! (hey Jane—you might just get that lovely candelabra, a.k.a. wedding gift from Aunt Myrtle, that you graciously "loaned" to PDK for our initiation back again!) ☺

Mary Ann McKinnon,
Your Humble Newsletter Editor

From Russia with Love

By Joe Oliveri, Chapter Historian

Dr. Gloria Moran has visited Russia 4 times in the past few years. She is part of a group of educators, several who are members of the Houghton College faculty that visits orphanages and schools. Houghton College is located in western New York state and hosts 3 to 5 students from Perm, Russia for a year of study. She shared several of her experiences at the most recent PDK meeting on October 24, 2007.

Gloria's presentation was a fine tapestry of information weaving history, geography and personal anecdotes into a fabric of useful information that was thoroughly enjoyed by her attentive listeners. For example, within the walls of Red Square there is an unmistakable contrast between the "haves" and "have nots" as upscale department stores share the same plaza with less grandiose shops. The subway in Moscow is beautifully adorned in marble and remarkably graffiti free (unlike many of our public transportation networks). You will find, moreover, members of the prestigious Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra entertaining the passers by as they try to supplement their income. Teachers, incidentally, are paid the equivalent of approximately \$800.00 a year in Russia but they command great respect. The apartments that Gloria and her entourage stayed in were generally small and stark but tidy. In one of the apartments that Gloria stayed, however, the bathroom floor was heated – a luxury that Gloria truly appreciated. They have unique bathroom features that allow you to multi-task. Except for the very rich, these cramped and unpretentious abodes are the norm in Russia.

Perm, is a city 800 miles east and 23 hours by train from Moscow. Sitting in the foothills of the Ural Mountains and sliced by the Kama River, Perm developed as a weapons manufacturing center for Russia more than 200 years ago. It remained one of Russia's leading military complexes and was closed to outsiders until 1991. Relics of the munitions facilities now serve as outdoor museums for visitors. A city of 4 million people, Perm is also the home of several orphanages that service the hundreds of youngsters known as "the street people". As Gloria found out from personal experience and informative guides, these youngsters comprise one of the largest concentration of homeless children in the world. Orphanages and shelters work tirelessly to care for these children. Once a new "recruit" is admitted to an

orphanage he/she is given a complete medical exam, inoculated and isolated for a month to prevent the spread of any disease. Gloria and her fellow goodwill ambassadors distributed sweatshirts and beanie babies. The latter became cherished possessions of the children. To show their appreciation, the children sang songs in Russian and English.

Throughout the trip, Gloria's group was aided by several translators and interpreters. These young people she described as brilliant and friendly. At the Perm Pedagogical University, Gloria was invited to teach a class. Knowing Gloria, I am sure she was as adroit with the Russian students as she is with BSC students. She has also been asked to address at two International Conferences at the university. She is currently at work on a paper that she plans to present at the December conference. I am sure I speak for all PDK chapter members in wishing her good fortune during the presentation.

The Russian people take a great deal of pride in their heritage. This can be seen in multiple schools that she visited in which students studied ballroom dancing during a physical education class. In one ceremony, the kindergarten children were hoisted on the shoulders of graduating students and paraded around the school ringing a bell to signify the end of the school year and graduation. Other schools had cultural centers that were dedicated to painting, music and dance.

Her last stop was Kotlas a city near the Arctic Circle. Gloria and friends were welcomed at an orphanage in which the children sang and danced in their honor. It was in Kotlas that Gloria learned that President Putin and the Russian legislature have tightened the rules on the adoption of children, especially by foreigners. They see the problem as uniquely Russian and refuse to allow outsiders help them deal with it.

As the meeting came to an end – President Jane Souza described it as a wonderful educational and cultural experience – we are reminded of the value of community service. To that end, our chapter will have a presentation on the subject during our February meeting. Our December meeting will feature a special collection of non-perishables for a local shelter in Marshfield. Please join us in the evening's festivities and contribute to this special collection. ❖

PDK
"Focus on Service"



Tuesday, December 4, 2007

**Place: The Fireside Grille 30 Bedford Street Middleboro MA. Located at the Middleboro Rotary
Phone number 508 947 5333**

5:30pm Networking

6:00pm **Old Fashion Yankee Swap and Community Service Project:** Bring a Gift for Homeless Shelter in Marshfield for Woman and Children and bring something to "re-gift" for a TRUE Yankee Swap!

6:30pm Dinner

All reservations must be accompanied by a check for the amount of your dinner/s. **Checks should be made payable to PDK.** No reservations will be made for you without a check.

Please have your check payable to PDK to me by November 30, 2007.

If you are ordering for a group, please indicate the number and type of meal/s required.

Please indicate your dinner choice and send this form with your check to:

Mrs. Kimberlee Scott
PDK Vice President for Programming
15 Donald Street
West Wareham, MA 02576-1421.

Please have your check payable to PDK to me by November 30, 2007.

If you are ordering for a group, please indicate the number and type of meal/s required.

Dinner Choices are:

Prime Rib \$31.50_____ Baked Stuffed Chicken \$23.50_____ Baked Haddock \$24.50_____

Your name_____

Number of people in your party _____.

Phone number or email address where you can be reached if you dinner selection is not available

_____.

Upcoming PDK Meetings

Focus on Service

December 4, 2007 (Tues) Old Fashion Yankee Swap & Community Service

February 12, 2008 (Tues) Topic: Community Service Learning

May 8, 2008 (Thurs) Topic: PDK Chapter Initiation and Scholarship Presentation

All meetings are held at the Fireside Restaurant in Middleboro and begin with a networking session at 5:30 p.m.

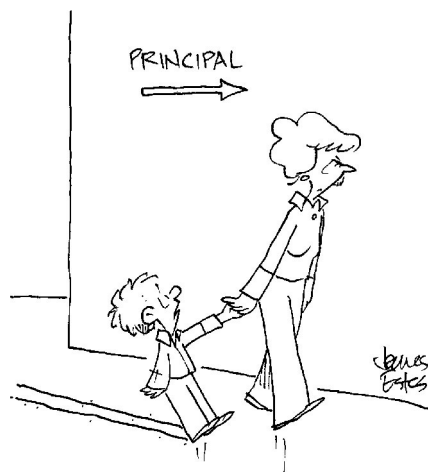


Bridgewater Phi Delta Kappa

c/o School of Education & Allied Studies
Bridgewater State College
Bridgewater, MA 02325



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“Wow! You’re really strong, Mrs. Jones!”

PDK News is printed bi-monthly during the academic year. Articles submitted for consideration should be e-mailed to the editor :
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