



PDK NEWS



October 2007

BRIDGEWATER STATE COLLEGE PHI DELTA KAPPA CHAPTER 1580

Vol. 9 No. 1

President's Corner

Dear Fellow Kappans,

Our newest executive board member, Joseph Oliveri, did a wonderful job recalling the details of our wonderful Chapter 10th Anniversary celebration. I hope you read his article in this newsletter. I would just like to add my thanks to the hard-working event committee members: MaryAnn McKinnon, Carol Radford, Gloria Moran, Joanne Newcombe, Ruthie Fitzpatrick, and Deb Stone. It was truly a pleasure working with them to plan this celebration.

Thanks also to all who joined us for the PDK party in body or in spirit. We had a great time didn't we!? There was one snafu that I wanted to explain. On the invitation we asked your dinner choice, as we planned a plated dinner. Somehow we ended up with a buffet...thank you for graciously accepting this change. The catering department at BSC was wonderful in helping us deal with the situation and adjusted our bill accordingly. Therefore, I am pleased to announce that the difference in cost will be used to fund additional scholarships for education students. Please watch for the scholarship notification forms over the next couple of months. Again, thank you for your understanding!

I hope to see you at our next meeting on October 24th when Dr. Gloria Moran will share her research in Russia with us.

Sincerely,
Jane M. Souza ❖

Ch. 1580's 10th Anniversary

A Report by Joseph Oliveri, Chapter Historian

As I walked into the Rondileau Center looking for the ballroom, Dr. Dana Mohler-Faria caught up to me. I said hello and asked if he was leading the way to the PDK anniversary dinner. He said he was but was as unsure as I was where he was going. I was surprised at his candor and quick wit, but as he bounded up the steps at a pace that had me huffing mightily to keep up with him, I said "Well you lead and I'll follow". Within seconds we were at the ballroom's entrance. Soft music as performed by pianist Shen He wafted from a corner of the room. The atmosphere was electric and one could easily surmise that something wonderful was unfolding.

The PDK anniversary celebration was under way. The unmistakable buzz of networking was already in full bloom as educators rekindled friendships or introduced themselves as PDK members who shared like minded experiences. Dr. Mohler-Faria as the President of Bridgewater State College stayed long enough to congratulate President Jane Souza and Mary Ann McKinnon for the evening's special event. He spoke briefly to those PDK members that he recognized or recognized him as the college's president. He has the kind of charisma that encourages all who talk to him a memorable event. And remembering was the central point of the evening. From the moment that President Jane Souza gaveled the meeting to order to the waning moments of departure, this 10th Anniversary dinner was all about remembering the people who dedicated a year of effort in establishing a Chapter at BSC. We honor their dedication and commitment. Among those present were Barbara Bautz, Daniel Bresnahan, John Deasy, Gloria Moran, Joanne Newcombe, Paul Prescott and Mary Shorey. A debt of gratitude was paid by Jane Souza as she indicated that they were among the 25 Kappans needed to create Chapter #1580 at BSC. One could quickly discern who these Charter members were because they were the center of attention all evening as it seemed that everyone wanted to pass on their thankfulness. Later in the ceremony, a beautiful key chain with the BSC logo inscribed onto the center piece was presented to each by Jane and Mary Ann McKinnon as a token of appreciation, sincere gratitude and remembrance.

President Jane opened the meeting with her usual gracious welcome and then asked for a moment of silent reflection for Anne Lydecker, a Charter member and founding Dean of the BSC School of Education and Allied Studies. The Organizational Committee received hearty thanks from Jane. Those responsible for sculpturing the program for the evening included Gloria Moran, Carol Radford, Mary Ann McKinnon, Joanne Newcombe, Ruthie Fitzpatrick, Jen Stone and, of course, Jane Souza. It is because of this committee's combined effort that the evening's proceedings unfurled smoothly.

A special tribute and homage was paid to Dr. John Deasy who has been a Kappan for more than 50 years. Presented with a Certificate of Honor for his many years of membership and as a Founding Member of our chapter, Dr. Deasy was initiated into PDK on April 17, 1956.

Cont'd. on page 2

Cont'd. from page 1

In his brief remarks of acceptance, Dr. Deasy recalled that during the short period before his initiation he was reluctant to join PDK. At that point in time, perspective initiates had to write a 1500 word essay. Dr. Deasy, who was balancing his graduate studies with the role of a graduate assistant, believed that he lacked sufficient time to write an essay that would be worthy of PDK recognition. However his advisor encouraged him to do so. He did and he has referred to it as one of the best decisions that he made as a young man. Dr. Deasy was not, however, the most senior person present at this anniversary occasion. He was accompanied by Mary Alice Chatham, the mother of Julie Conroy, one of the Founders. Ms Chatham is 99 years old and extremely perceptive.

Mary Ann McKinnon followed with a brief video of the history of our chapter. It included an interview with Dr. Deasy who recalled the moment of initiation - somehow one does not tire of such enthusiasm. Mary Ann explained that the BSC TV Studio where the video was recorded, was extremely hot that day. Yet despite that, Dr. Deasy recalled his story with the kind of self-confidence one would expect from him. Assisting Mary Ann in the production of the video were Gloria Moran and Joanne Newcombe who supplied several photos and "still" shots. The effort demonstrated by Mary Ann in coordinating the video fosters the type of passion that PDK members bring to their classrooms. Young teachers who strive to emulate this spirit will surely have a successful career.

President Souza resumed her position behind the lectern and described PDK as the premier association of educators. She explained, albeit briefly, that PDK was founded in 1910 when three organizations – Pi Kappa Mu of Indiana University, Phi Delta Kappa of Columbia University and Nu Rho Beta of Missouri University – merged to form the current association. The three keystones on the crest are representative of the three universities. Since its inception, PDK has inaugurated more than 650 chapters and initiated more than 500,000 members. The international headquarters is located in Bloomington, Indiana. A primary *raison d'état* of our organization is to prepare the next generation of teachers through visionary leadership, research and service. 56 signatories bore witness to the By Laws that established our chapter on September 30, 1997. During that inauguration, 41 initiates joined the PDK family. Among those present for the 10th anniversary dinner were Julie Conroy, Ruth Fitzpatrick, Mary Ann McKinnon, Sandra Reese and Nancy Witherell. Under President Souza's leadership, our chapter has actively promoted the E Mentoring/Teacher-2-Teacher program in an effort to connect young teachers with their more experienced colleagues. Gloria Moran and Joanne Newcombe have sponsored interviewing skills as a Service Project and our chapter has selected several Teacher of the Year recipients. Recent speakers at our meetings have included David Driscoll, the former Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Education and a leading proponent of the MCAS Testing Program and Dr. Dana Mohler-Faria, the Current President of BSC and a special advisor on education to Governor Deval Fitzpatrick.

The meeting included a buffet style dinner of shrimp, chicken and ravioli with a slice of a beautiful and tastefully decorated cake as a dessert. Carol Pelletier Radford provided the red carnation corsages given to each of the Charter members and the colorful flower centerpieces for the tables. Gloria Moran donated a Guest Book for the occasion. It will be employed at future meetings to keep an accurate record of attendees. Joseph Oliveri, the chapter's newly appointed Historian, had on display the beginnings of a scrapbook in which he hopes to create a visual history of our chapter.

It is not hard to understand the essence of PDK. People committed to the advancement of public education, share their views and experiences. Along the way, you are bound to meet new people and establish exciting friendships. The discourse during the network phase of each meeting is especially important to the success of this organization. For example I was joined at dinner by Kim Scott, the Vice President for Programming and a teacher of high school science classes in Wareham, Grace Nagle, a dynamic Language Arts teacher at Raynham Middle School and part time instructor for the Denty Connection; Sandra Reese, one of the original initiates of 1997 and a retired educator of the West Bridgewater school system whose illustrious career included stints in the classroom as well as a guidance counselor; and Linda McSweeney, the principal of the Palmer River School in Rehoboth who oversees a pre-k to 4th grade institution that houses more than 800 students. During the course of dinner, we expounded on such diverse topics as MCAS (aka NCLB) and its mostly negative effects on teachers and administrators, the changing attitude of students, the would be corollary consequences of casinos in Middleboro, personal tales of family and school and the dynamic growth of Southeastern Massachusetts. This is what it is all about -creating and developing friendships while expanding your horizons and sharpening your opinions. This is what President Souza must have meant during her closing remarks when she described the evening's events as a "meaningful celebration of our anniversary."❖

PDK
"Leadership in a Changing World"

Meeting: Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Place: The Fireside *Grille 30 Bedford Street Middleboro MA. Located at the Middleboro Rotary*

Phone number 508 947 5333

Agenda:

5:30pm Networking

6:00pm **To Russia with Love:** Dr. Gloria Moran will share pictures and stories from her recent trips to Russia. Visit the Kremlin, public classrooms, Perm Pedagogical University and Kotlas Water College. Travel to the closed city of Perm noted for munitions. Meet the educators and students whose friendships have become precious.

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 detach and return reservation below to: **Mrs. Kimberlee Scott, Vice President for Programming PDK: 15 Donald Street West Wareham, MA 02576-1421.**

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 October 11, 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

_____.

A Note from our New Historian

Hello Fellow Kappans.

My name is Joseph Oliveri. This past spring the Executive Board appointed me as the chapter historian. I would like to create a visual history, with some journaling, of our chapter. This would take the form of an expansive scrap book. Although I have volunteered for this project, it will challenge me because I only recently joined PDK this past year. I am in possession of some information, but there are many gaps to fill. Therefore, I need your help. If you would like to share any photographs, newsletters, anecdotes, memories of past

speakers, meeting programs, personal professional development since 1997 and ways that PDK has guided your educational experiences that I may use in the scrap book, I would be most appreciative.

You may email me at mro106@comcast.net with your contributions or for more information. You may also mail memorabilia to me at:

PO Box 157
Easton, MA 02334

Thank you.
Joseph Oliveri

Bridgewater Phi Delta Kappa

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



Φ-Δ-Κ
Σ-Α-Ψ
Σ-Β-Λ-Χ-Ε



"College? Yes - I graduated magna cum lucky."

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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