

# 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*



**2009-10 PDK-USC GOVERNING BOARD**

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**PDK-USC Web Site**

<http://www.pdk-usc.org>

**Advisors**

Dr. Marian Fukuda  
Meg Palisoc  
Adda Serenil

**Faculty Sponsor**

Dr. Melora Sundt

**Newsletter Editor**

Elizabeth Peisner

Join us for our first PDK-USC Dinner Meeting

**“Becoming a Highly Functioning Learning Organization”**

Friday, September 11, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

**!!! New Location !!!**

**The University Club\* at USC**

\* Formerly the Faculty Center

To RSVP, see page 4

**Meet the Speaker...  
Dr. Pedro Garcia**



Dr. Pedro E. Garcia is Professor of Clinical Education at the Rossier School of Education at the University of Southern California. His duties include teaching in the graduate program, working with USC superintendents throughout California, and assisting with the Rossier School of Education Alumni Group. Prior to coming to USC, Dr. Garcia served as the Superintendent for the Metropolitan Nashville Public

Schools in Nashville, TN. He was the third longest tenured superintendent among urban superintendents in America. MNPS is the 42nd largest district in America with 78,000 students, 137 schools and a budget of over \$600 million. Dr. Garcia set an aggressive agenda to achieve excellence once he arrived in Nashville in July of 2001. As a result, the 2001 the graduation rate in Nashville which was 55% increased to over 79% by 2008.

Dr. Pedro E. Garcia, Cuban born American, arrived in the USA in 1962 at the age of 15. He was part of Operation Peter Pan, which brought 14,048 children to freedom from communism. He lived in a Miami camp for refugees until his parents arrived months later. He and his wife, Dr. Priscilla L. Partridge de Garcia, have five grown children and nine grandchildren.

# Message from the President

By Lisa Regan



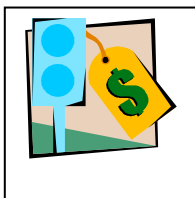
In 1992, while I was an undergraduate student at USC, our country had visions of hope as it elected its first Democrat to the White House in 12 years. Yet, following a brief but costly war in Iraq, our country was teetering on the verge of recession. I witnessed dozens of my friends, armed with prestigious USC degrees and a wealth of knowledge, facing an unforgiving and impossible job market upon graduation. But I was lucky—I had chosen to teach. Two years later I had a job, teaching a relatively small class of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders at Euclid Avenue Magnet School in Boyle Heights. “Teaching is recession-proof,” my first principal told me.

Flash forward to this past spring. Similar scenario. Mired deep in recession, California found itself facing not only an unforgiving and impossible job market, but the seemingly unthinkable: slashed public education funding. Teaching becomes just one of many careers that Americans thought would never undergo massive layoffs through reduction in force, and over 3,000 teachers were “RIFed” in Los Angeles County alone. So with rising class sizes and decreased funding and staffing, how can we, as Kappans, lead our schools into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and improve student achievement for all?

I am honored that our membership has selected me as its president during these unprecedented times, and I thank you for the opportunity. But as Robert Browning once wrote, “Progress is the law of life.” Therefore, our theme for this year is **“Teaching, Leading, and Learning in a Time of Change.”** Borrowing from two of the leaders in modern management thinking, Peter Drucker and Peter Senge\*, our theme stems from a need to foster creativity and innovation and march onward toward progress even with these difficult circumstances. Just as Drucker and Senge point out, this time of change requires all school leaders to focus on and invest in opportunities rather than problems, preserve institutional values that are at the heart of any great school, continue to build trust, and attract and motivate the highest-caliber professionals—our dedicated teachers, counselors, administrators, and support staff. Our cadre of 2009-10 PDK-USC Dinner Meeting speakers, our March Dinner Research Panel Discussion, and all of our programs will reflect this theme throughout the year.

In 2009-10, your PDK-USC Governing Board is also moving forward with new ways to provide service to our members, increase and retain our membership, and maximize fundraising efforts to create more programs and scholarships. I am asking every PDK-USC member to make time at least once this year to attend one of our exciting chapter events and to recruit at least one inspirational educator to our chapter. Starting this September, our Dinner Meetings will return to their former home, the USC University Club (formerly the Faculty Center). Connect with USC Kappans via our new Facebook page (search “USC Phi Delta Kappa”). Explore cutting-edge teaching, leading, and learning topics through one of our PDK-USC programs. Attend the 2009 PDK Global Summit on Quality Educator Recruitment & Retention in Indianapolis this October 15-17. Support one of our PDK-USC awards or programs through a tax-deductible donation. But most importantly, commit yourself to the PDK ideals of research, service, and leadership to help a fellow educator, a local school, and your PDK-USC chapter through your active participation. And most importantly, please share your thoughts on our theme or ideas for our chapter with me via email at [lisa.regan@lausd.net](mailto:lisa.regan@lausd.net) so we can make this a memorable PDK-USC year. Thanks, and see you September 11<sup>th</sup>. 🍷

\* Drucker, P. & Senge, P. (2001). *Leading In a Time of Change: What It Will Take to Lead Tomorrow*. New York: Jossey-Bass/Wiley.



## Special Discount for Dinner Meetings!!!

Purchase all five dinner meetings in advance and receive  
**a 10% Discount** to those meetings (a savings of \$20).\*

Mail the form below and your check for **\$180.00** per person, made payable to PDK-USC Chapter, to:

PDK-USC Chapter, c/o Teresa Miller  
9737 Armley Ave. Whittier, CA 90604

**DON'T MISS OUT – THE LAST DAY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS SPECIAL DISCOUNT IS FRIDAY SEPT. 4TH, 2009.  
Your check and this form must arrive before this date.**

\* Sorry, no refunds will be given after purchases are made. All five dinners will take place at the University Club\* .  
If you are unable to attend a dinner meeting after purchasing this special package, please inform Teresa Miller at 562-698-8704  
or [TeacherTMM@aol.com](mailto:TeacherTMM@aol.com) at least one week in advance so your dinner expenses can be your contribution to the PDK-USC Chapter.  
Parking is available for \$8.00 at Parking Structure X: Figueroa Street & USC McCarthy Way (Gate #3).

\_\_\_\_\_ **YES**, sign me up! I want to take advantage of the PDK-USC special dinner discount.  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Regrettably**, I cannot attend the dinner meetings. Instead, here is my \$180.00 contribution to the PDK-USC Chapter.

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

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Guests' Name(s), if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Dinner #1:</b> _____ Chicken	_____ Fish	_____ Vegetarian Pasta	<b>Dinner #4:</b> _____ Chicken	_____ Fish	_____ Vegetarian Pasta
<b>Dinner #2:</b> _____ Chicken	_____ Fish	_____ Vegetarian Pasta	<b>Dinner #5:</b> _____ Chicken	_____ Fish	_____ Vegetarian Pasta
<b>Dinner #3:</b> _____ Chicken	_____ Fish	_____ Vegetarian Pasta			

## 2009-2010 USC Phi Delta Kappa CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### September

- 11 – PDK-USC Dinner Meeting**  
University Club (formerly the Faculty Center), 6:00 p.m.
- 16 – PDK-USC Board Meeting**, WPH 900, 5:30 p.m.

### October

- 15-17 – PDK International Conference**  
Indianapolis, Indiana

### November

- 6 – PDK-USC Dinner Meeting**  
University Club (formerly the Faculty Center), 6:00 p.m.
- 18 – PDK-USC Board Meeting**, WPH 900, 5:30 p.m.

### January

- 22 – PDK-USC Stoops Lecture Dinner Meeting**  
University Club (formerly the Faculty Center), 6:00 p.m.
- 27 – PDK-USC Board Meeting**, WPH 900, 5:30 p.m.

### March

- 12 – PDK-USC Dinner Meeting-**  
University Club (formerly the Faculty Center), 6:00 p.m.
- 17 – PDK-USC Board Meeting**, WPH 900, 5:30 p.m.

### May

- 7 – PDK-USC Recognition Dinner Meeting**  
University Club (formerly the Faculty Center), 6:00 p.m.
- 12 – 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/)

# CHAPTER DINNER MEETING

## New Location !!!

(Located in the USC University Club\* Formerly the Faculty Center)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

**DINNER RESERVATION DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, SEPT. 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2009**

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

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

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

Mail your check (made payable to PDK-USC Chapter) for **\$40.00** per person with this form.  
It must arrive before Friday, Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> to:

PDK-USC Chapter  
c/o Teresa Miller  
9737 Armley Ave. Whittier, CA 90604

Parking is available for \$8.00 through **Gate # 3**.\* *Please consider carpooling.*  
(Figueroa Street & USC McCarthy Way, across from the Galen Center)  
**To take advantage of a 10% Discount offer, see form on page 3.**

## Have You Recruited a New Member to PDK?


Share the Benefits of Membership with a Dedicated, Deserving Educator

By Ed Robillard, VP Membership

**E**very September, educators all over Los Angeles make "new school year resolutions" that often include goals for professional growth. This year, make it your contribution to the education profession and your USC Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa to recruit new members to our dynamic organization. Our chapter offers numerous opportunities for teachers, counselors, administrators, and other school personnel to grow in the areas of research, leadership, and service to their schools and communities.

### Why Join PDK-USC?

- Belong to the largest professional society of K-14 public educators in the world
- Connect with successful educators from various education fields
- Learn from dynamic speakers who serve in positions that influence education policy
- Link current research with your own professional practice
- Discover new ways to work toward improving public education in your community

By copying and distributing the 2009-2010 Application for Professional Membership to all the dedicated, deserving educators at your school or in your community, you are planting the seeds that encourage today's educators to be tomorrow's leaders and innovators. As an incentive, sponsors and their new initiates each receive a complimentary ticket to the raffle held during that night's Dinner Meeting. 

**Build the next generation of education leaders...**

**pass along the membership application to another fellow educator today! (See next page.)**

For more information on membership options, please contact  
Ed Robillard, VP - Membership, at [ELRobillard@aol.com](mailto:ELRobillard@aol.com).



# Phi Delta Kappa International

## USC Chapter Professional Member Application

2009-10



**Professional Membership** is available to “persons who demonstrate professional conduct and who hold a baccalaureate degree, are licensed/credential educators, are employed in an education-related field, or are undergraduate education majors who are participating in or have completed student teaching.” If you are interested in membership in Phi Delta Kappa but do not meet the criteria for Professional Membership, please contact the PDK-USC Vice-President of Membership or visit the PDK International Website at <http://www.pdkintl.org/joinpdk/joinhome.htm> to learn about the other ways you can become a member of Phi Delta Kappa.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street/P.O. Box)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) (Zip/Postal Code)

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Office Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Ext. \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Primary E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Education \_\_\_\_\_  Student Teacher  BA / BS  MA / MS / MEd / MAT / MSW  Ph.D. / Ed.D.

Date or Expected Date of Completion: \_\_\_\_\_  
Month/Year Month/Year Month/Year Month/Year

**ABOUT YOU**

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  Male  Female

**Current Occupational Category** Title \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

<input type="checkbox"/> Early Childhood/Preschool	<input type="checkbox"/> Association/Nonprofit Org.	<b>What prompted you to join PDK?</b> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Colleague recommended 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Advertisement 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Supervisor recommended 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Promotional brochure 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Professor recommended 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Website/Internet 4 <input type="checkbox"/> KAPPAN journal 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Conference 5 <input type="checkbox"/> PDK/Gallup Poll 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Direct mail 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Publications/products 13 <input type="checkbox"/> Affiliation with a professional association 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Training/workshop
<input type="checkbox"/> K-12 Instruction	<input type="checkbox"/> Student	
<input type="checkbox"/> K-12 Administration	<input type="checkbox"/> Retired	
<input type="checkbox"/> State Education Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Independent Educ. Consultant	
<input type="checkbox"/> Higher Ed. Instructor – 2-yr. Inst.	<input type="checkbox"/> Business/For Profit Company	
<input type="checkbox"/> Higher Ed. Instructor – 4-yr./Grad. Inst.	<input type="checkbox"/> Local/State/Fed Govt. Official	
<input type="checkbox"/> Higher Ed. Administration – 2-yr. Inst.	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent	
<input type="checkbox"/> Higher Ed. Administration – 4-yr./Grad. Inst.		

Please enter the name and ID number of your sponsor or the member who referred you to PDK. (Optional)

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Member ID#

**Applicant's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

How would you like to receive your PDK-USC Chapter Newsletters?  E-mail  US Mail  Both

**Submitting Your Application**

- Select** an initiation date: \_\_\_ 9/11/09 \_\_\_ 11/6/09 \_\_\_ 1/22/10 \_\_\_ 3/12/10 \_\_\_ 5/7/10
- Mail** this completed application with a \$140.00\* check made payable to **PDK-USC Chapter** to:  
**Dr. Edward Robillard**  
PDK-USC Vice President, Membership  
2313 S. Congress Avenue  
Los Angeles, California 90018
- E-mail** a brief, 100-word biography and of your professional experience and a digital picture (.jpg) to [ELRobillard@aol.com](mailto:ELRobillard@aol.com) after mailing your application. For more information, please call Dr. Ed Robillard at (213) 749-4928 x5132, or visit our PDK-USC Chapter website at <http://www.pdk-usc.org>.

\* This one-time new member fee includes your PDK International and Chapter Affiliation annual dues and the Dinner Meeting Initiation Ceremony. In subsequent years, your annual membership dues (\$100) will be paid directly to PDK International.

Information for PDK International:

Chapter Representative's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Office Held \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Initiation \_\_\_\_\_

This new member wishes to affiliate with **Chapter #0029 – University of Southern California.**

Payment: Standard One-Year Renewal. International Dues/Processing Fee: Will be paid in a check to PDK International drawn from Chapter funds.

# 2009 Awards Dinner and Installation of Officers



(Clockwise from top)

## PDK USC 2009 -2010 Governing Board

**Dr. Margaret Curwen** receiving the Outstanding Dissertation Award from Research Representative **Gizelle Monarres** and Awards Chair **Adda Serenil**.


PDK USC Member and Past President, **Peter Nisotis**, receiving the Ted Gordon Award from Adda Serenil and 2008 recipient, Meg Palisoc.



## RESEARCH NEWS



### Research in PDK the USC Chapter

Research is vital in providing the most appropriate tools for students, educators, administrators, and politicians to understand and work with the continuously changing dynamics of education. One of the benefits of being in PDK is having immediate access to the latest advances in research in education. Our PDK chapter of the University of Southern California invites researchers that attend our dinner meetings and share accomplishments in the education field that have direct impact on classroom instruction around the nation. Once a year our USC chapter puts together a research panel that consists of different leaders and experts in various areas of education. They present their latest findings or programs that provide our members with an insight to the continuous changes that occur in instruction and administration. It allows our members to be aware of the latest in research and provides answers to questions that many have on the subject matter. PDK also offers membership to the *Kappan*, which is a journal for education. It gives you information and provides growth at the tips of your fingers, that can be used in the classroom, or for basic knowledge of worldwide education news. Every year, PDK International provides a conference for educators, who come from all over the world to share, and learn from each other, information vital in education. Each year, it is held in a different state in the U.S.A., or a different country, and people enjoy networking with each other. PDK invites everyone with a link to education to be part of our family of educators, which provides professional and personal growth to those who aspire to be leaders. 

Gizelle Monarres



# Member Spotlight

The PDK-USC Kappan is looking for new information and stories about our members to highlight in upcoming issues and/or on our Web site. Several members took fantastic trips this past Spring and Summer – China, France, England. How many new principals, superintendents are there among us? If you or another PDK-USC member you know has an exciting achievement that is of note or importance, please share it with us so we can pass along the good news! How are you advancing the future of education?

**Member Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**USC Graduation Year:** Bachelor's \_\_\_\_\_ Master's \_\_\_\_\_ Doctorate \_\_\_\_\_

## Describe the news

Be as specific as possible. Include: new title, school/district/office, and responsibilities; recent publication title and journal/publisher; name of honor/award and awarding institution; career milestone or retirement, etc. Attach additional sheets if necessary.

**Submissions are welcome any time of the year.**

Contact Phone Number: Day ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Evening ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Contact E-mail : \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Please send via US mail or e-mail to:  
 Elizabeth Peisner Vice President and  
 Editor, *The PDK-USC Kappan*  
 11325 Morrison St. Apt. 108  
 North Hollywood, CA 91601  
 OR to [Peisner@usc.edu](mailto:Peisner@usc.edu)

## GO GREEN WITH PDK – USC : PAPER OR PAPERLESS ?



Several years ago, PDK-USC members were surveyed to see how many would prefer the newsletter mailed or sent via email. At that time, PDK International supplied mailing labels and it was easier to mail all of the newsletters. Now, as the cost of postage is climbing, PDK International no longer supplies mailing labels, and many of you have expressed a desire to receive paperless copies of the newsletter only.

We are conducting the survey again.

Please place a check in the square before your choice:

- paperless**, via email please
- paper**, please mail me a copy
- paperless and paper

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Your Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (e-mail address)

Please return to Elizabeth Peisner, 11325 Morrison St. Apt. 108, North Hollywood, CA 91601, or [Peisner@usc.edu](mailto:Peisner@usc.edu)

This survey can also be found on line at:

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=uvrblrRzQSHO0B9GWvh5CQ\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=uvrblrRzQSHO0B9GWvh5CQ_3d_3d). Thank you.

# 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.

**Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award** is funded through the PDK Educational Foundation. One cash award of \$5,000 will be awarded for the doctoral dissertation judged to be the outstanding submission in 2009. Deadline is September 1.


**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 Emery 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 2009 through 30 June 2010. Deadline is June 1. 

*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**